



BOARD of DIRECTORS

May 15, 2018

*Sarah Atkins*  
Emmanuel Church  
Newport

The Honorable Robert Jacquard  
Chair, House Committee on Corporations  
Rhode Island State House  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

*Tim DeChristopher*  
First Unitarian Church  
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Bahá'í Community

STAFF

*Kristen Ivy Moses*  
Executive Director  
First Unitarian Church  
Providence

Dear Rep. Jacquard:

Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light is mobilizing a religious response to climate change across the state. As people of faith, we are deeply concerned about the effects of climate change on creation, especially on our black, brown, and indigenous people, and low-income communities. We believe that as people of faith we are called to be stewards of creation and to love our neighbors. We have a moral imperative to act to protect our children's future and that of all future generations. We advocate for public policies that will effectively minimize global warming. We support America's transition away from dirty energy sources to clean renewable energy and a brighter future.

We oppose Net Metering for Biomass Incinerators (H.8020) which "Expands the definition of eligible net metering resources by including 'eligible biomass fuels'". Allowing the burning of wood, and construction debris in particular, releases high levels of particulate matter and carbon dioxide. This will adversely impact our ability to meet our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative commitments and Resilient Rhode Island Act targets.

Biomass incineration is not a low-carbon power source. Multiple peer-reviewed studies have shown that burning wood emits 50% more CO<sub>2</sub> per megawatt generated than even coal. That is why biomass was specifically excluded from the 2011 net metering bill.

Biomass incineration releases dangerous soot and other air pollutants. If this bill passes, Rhode Island children will experience more asthma, and Rhode Island adults will experience more cases of lung disease and stroke. Rhode Island asthma rates are already higher than the national average, with people of color suffering significantly more than white people.

This bill is designed to benefit one developer, not the overall best interests of our state or its residents. Make the health and welfare of all Rhode Island residents a priority. Please oppose Net Metering for Biomass Incinerators (H.8020).

Thank you in advance for doing your part.

Interfaith blessings,

Kristen Ivy Moses  
Executive Director

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