



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
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www.anc3e.org

Resolution Regarding the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2013

Whereas, the DC City Council will soon consider “legislation” called the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2013, and

Whereas, this legislation amends the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004, and

Whereas, the District of Columbia along with 37 states have created Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) which require electricity consumed within those jurisdictions to be generated from a variety of renewable resources¹, and

Whereas, the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 created three groupings of energy sources that in stages required that by 2020 the District of Columbia’s electricity supply be comprised of a mix of energy sources totaling 20%² coming from what the legislation considered to be renewable energy sources, and

Whereas, the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 considered energy derived from the incineration of black liquor³ which is a by-product of the manufacture of pulp to be one of these forms of renewable energy, and

Whereas, between 2007-2010 and the Federal Government also considered black liquor to be a source of alternative energy and offered a tax credit for energy generated from black liquor however sentiment shifted after it was determined that the manufacture of black liquor in fact requires intense consumption of fossil fuels⁴ and it is therefore no longer considered an alternative fuel and the Federal Tax credit was allowed to expire at the end of 2010, and

Whereas, the District of Columbia and several other states have or are in the process of correcting their Renewal Portfolio Standards to remove black liquor from the list of renewable energy sources⁵, and

¹ <http://www.epa.gov/lmop/publications-tools/funding-guide/state-resources/index.html>

² http://dsireusa.org/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=DC04R&re=1&ee=0

³ <http://www.eia.gov/tools/glossary/index.cfm?id=Black%20liquor>

⁴ <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=abDjfGgdumh4>

⁵ http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/md-dc-utilities-pay-paper-mills-burning-black-liquor-for-alternative-fuel-credits/2013/02/22/440078da-696b-11e2-95b3-272d604a10a3_story.html

Whereas, the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 also considered energy derived from the incineration of biomass from generation units achieving less than 70% efficiency to be another form of renewable energy, and

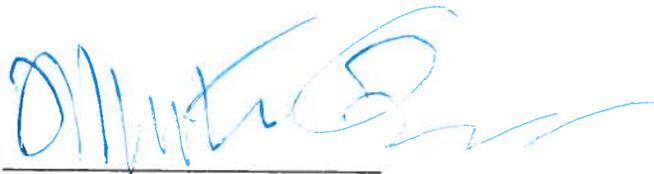
Whereas, this legislation would correct both of those mistakes by no longer allowing energy derived from black liquor and biomass generation units with less than 70% efficiency to count towards the District's portfolio of renewable energy sources, and

Whereas, the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2004 also considered the burning of landfill gas to be another form of renewable energy but there are many concerns about the appropriateness of allowing such consumption to count towards RPS standards, and

Whereas, there are additional concerns about the efficiency of biomass incineration and whether or not the environmental harms outweigh the benefits.⁶

Now therefore be it resolved, ANC 3E urges the DC City Council to pass the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act of 2013. We further urge the City Council to review the qualification of biomass and landfill gas for REC's and consider whether further modifications of the rules governing biomass and landfill gas could strengthen environmental protections and reinforce efforts to build the market for emissions-free wind and solar.

ANC 3E approved this resolution at its meeting on June 12, 2014, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 4-0-0. Commissioners Jonathan Bender, Matthew Frumin, Tom Quinn and Sam Serebin were present.



ANC 3E
By Matthew Frumin, Chairperson

⁶ <http://www.energyjustice.net/eGRID> & <http://www.energyjustice.net/biomass/climate> and http://www.energyjustice.net/files/dc/RPS_Black_Liquor.pdf