

MAY 20 2002

NORTHLAND FOREST PRODUCTS, INC.
NEW ENGLAND AND APPALACHIAN HARDWOODS

Greetings Meredith Hatfield! 5-17-02

I wish to express my support for our wood energy facilities, and for their inclusion in the state energy plan. I think this in-state source of energy derived from a renewable local resource [our forests] should be expanded, not reduced.

Folks involved in policy-making should be public-spirited and with the ability to take the long-term view; and not

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the typically American short term view that does not go beyond tomorrow's energy companies' profit margin.

I am the steward of a small N.A. forest that is a registered American Tree Farm. I was pleased to be able to receive payment for low quality wood that resulted from a 1995 selective harvest. This "junk" wood went to the Springfield plant. It otherwise would have stayed to rot on the ground - not a bad thing certainly - but the tops leave plenty of that behind for future forest nutrients.

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Every year I will get a call from real estate folks "would you like to sell, I have an interested developer". Well, I hope to leave this forest intact and protected as a legacy to my children, and as a place that will continue to provide its many values to an ever increasing populace. I would dare expect energy planning to take the same long view and that together we will provide locally produced energy from a locally produced renewable natural resource.

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And that this same energy will assist local businesses producing lumber from this same renewable resource. A great win-win-win!
(And of course the employment generated locally, and in generally "rural" areas; and the state-wide value of tourism attracted in part by our "healthy" forests. More win-win!)
Thanks for listening!



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