

21 October, 2009

Senator Deborah Stabenow

133 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510-2204

Dear Senator Stabenow:

In addition to conveying my concerns about the negative effects of biomass combustion on the health of children in this country, I wanted to also highlight the relatively small number of jobs that these plants provide for the communities in which they are situated.

The average number of permanent jobs is usually less than forty, and a few of these are specialized jobs for which people in rural areas or areas with lower education levels may not be qualified. This number is small in comparison to other industrial plants that require a \$150-200 million initial construction investment. Since the taxpayers are subsidizing up to 70% of the original cost of these plants under ARRA and EISA, it seems like a very expensive job program when examined on the basis of \$\$ invested/job created.

We have been working with many communities across the country, and the following is a sample of the job positions that will be available. These figures are taken from published company documents.

Milltown, IN ≤ 40
Scottsburg, IN ≤40
Lagrange, GA 25-30
Greenfield, MA 25-30
Russell, MA 25
Gainesville, FL ≤ 30
Port St. Joe, FL ≤ 30
Fitchburg, MA 25
Springfield, MA 25

The environmental disadvantages and the resultant health effects/costs represent the primary reasons to closely examine the role of biomass combustion and to alter the legislation so it does not gain unmerited preferable treatment over coal or comparable treatment to other legitimately “clean” sources of energy. On the other hand, research into new technologies and the revival of manufacturing in Michigan to make solar panels and wind turbines would be an investment that will create many more jobs than comparable investments in biomass combustion.

Thank you for the attention. If you require any other information please contact me.

Dr. William Sammons

781-799-0041

drsammons@aol.com/www.ecolaw.biz