

Background on Renewable Energy Standard Portfolio Act of 2013 (B20-418)

A renewable electricity standard, also known as renewable portfolio standard (RPS) is a requirement for retail sellers of electricity to gain a set amount of the electricity they sell from renewable energy sources.

- Enforceable standards have been enacted in thirty states and the District of Columbia.

The District's RPS was unanimously enacted by the Council in January, 2005.

- Largely patterned after the Maryland bill for political reasons.
- Defined "black liquor," a product of paper making, as renewable.

This loophole in the District RPS needs to be closed.

- Analysis by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) indicates that as a result of this loophole, in the last three years 79 percent of the District's renewable energy dollars flowed to paper making and wood waste facilities instead of clean renewables such as wind.
- None of the facilities that receive these subsidies are in the District and offer no economic benefit to District rate payers.
- Closing this loophole will more than double the use of clean renewable sources of energy such as wind by the year 2020.
- Closing this loophole will not likely increase rates because the price for renewable energy credits is set by the open market throughout the PJM region.

The Renewable Energy Standard Portfolio Act of 2013 (B20-418) would close this loophole and increase the use of renewable energy.

- The bill is pending before the DC Council's Committee on Government Operations and is cosponsored by councilmembers Mendelson and Cheh.
- The committee received extensive testimony on this bill on October 16
- District residents should contact their councilmembers and urge prompt passage of the bill.

USEFUL LINKS FOR BACKGROUND OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO ACT OF 2013 (B20-418)

- A comparison of renewable standards in the pjm region can be found here:
- <http://www.pjm-eis.com/~media/pjm-eis/documents/rps-comparison.ashx>
- A Backgrounder on black liquor along with some useful graphs and FAQs from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network can be found here:

http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=3639:clean-up-dcs-renewable-energy-law&Itemid=20

A copy of the Renewable Energy Standard Portfolio Act of 2013 (B20-418) can be found here:

<http://dcclims1.dccouncil.us/images/00001/20130731120753.pdf>

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