**BLACK LIQUOR: DIRTY ENERGY SOURCES**

Black liquor is made up of waste from the paper milling industry, including mill residues, brush, yard waste, and leftovers from the paper and lumber production processes. While the carbon content of black liquor is as bad as, or even worse than, coal it currently qualifies as a source of “renewable energy” under D.C’s Renewable Portfolio Standard.

Renewable Portfolio Standards are designed to promote clean sources of energy, not outdated, polluting energies like black liquor.

It’s time to remove black liquor from DC’s RPS. Ratepayer dollars should be supporting the growth of clean, renewable energy rather than outdated, dirty sources.

**THE PROBLEM: AN ASSAULT ON OUR HEALTH AND WALLETS**

Pulp and paper facilities generate black liquor as a byproduct of their industrial facilities, and then burn this waste to generate electricity. However, the combustion of black liquor generates hazardous emissions of sulfur dioxide, arsenic, and lead at levels greater than or equal to the combustion of fossil fuels.

These pollutants have been proven to lead to serious health complications, including more asthma attacks, respiratory illnesses, and premature deaths.

While, coal-fired power plants represent the largest source of climate-disrupting carbon pollution in the United States. Carbon pollution from other power sources still contribute to the growing threat of climate disruption which.

While states like Delaware and New Jersey get over 70% of their RPS energy from wind and solar, these sources make up only 7% of DC’s current portfolio.

**THE SOLUTION: PROMOTION OF TRUE CLEAN ENERGY SOURCES LIKE WIND AND SOLAR**

By removing black liquor from its Renewable Portfolio Standard, DC can achieve the original intention of its RPS: the promotion of clean energy which will protect public health and fuel local job growth. Removing black liquor would reduce about 1 million metric tons of climate-disrupting carbon emissions - the equivalent annual energy use of close to 50,000 American homes. Promoting true clean energy sources like wind and solar has the potential to bring thousands of new jobs to the Mid-Atlantic. If DC removes black liquor from its RPS, wind energy could make up 70% of its clean energy portfolio by 2020.

We need action now. The DC Council should act quickly to remove black liquor from DC’s RPS by passing Chairman Phil Mendelson and Councilmember Mary Cheh’s bill, the “Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Amendment Act of 2013.”