

# Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

*Joshua Schauer 271-3077*

**SB 539-FN**, relative to eligible biomass technology in the renewable portfolio standards.

**Hearing Date:** January 8, 2026

**Time Opened:** 1:00 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 1:05 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Rosenwald, McConkey, Avard and Watters

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Pearl

**Bill Analysis:** This bill restructures how biomass technologies are categorized and eligible for renewable portfolio standard compliance in the state by aligning all eligible biomass technologies to class III.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. McConkey

Sen. Innis

Sen. Avard

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Carson

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**Who supports the bill:** 7 individuals signed in support. Contact Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov for further information.

**Who opposes the bill:** 16 individuals signed in opposition. Contact Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov for further details

**Who is neutral on the bill:** 2 Individuals sign in neutral. Contact Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov. for further information.

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Senator Mark McConkey, District 3**

- Senator McConkey introduced the legislation as the prime sponsor.
- He said that he was approached by the New Hampshire timber and biomass industry leaders to create legislation that would align the eligible biomass technologies to class III.
- He said that the industry had worked hard and with many stakeholders about the proposed legislation however they ultimately decided that there is more work to be done, so he asked the committee to make a motion of Interim study on the legislation.

- Senator McConkey explained that the markets for renewable energy credits are dynamic and complex. There are parts that need to be examined further, and the State cannot take the chance for any unintended consequences if they pass the legislation as written.
- They are requesting an interim study motion but he said they will come back to this issue at a later date.

**Jodi Grimblas, Bridgewater Power Company and Jasen Stock, NHTOA (New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association)**

- Ms. Grimblas stated that they wanted to get through the more dynamic market language and details before they make a legislative change because it is such a critical program to the biomass industry.
- She also echoed the concern that they do not want to see any unintended consequences if they pass legislation that has not been thoroughly researched. They support an interim study motion.

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Date Hearing Report completed: January 9, 2026