

Biofuels Bill Signing

July 28, 2008

- Thank you for the kind introduction.
- I would like to begin by thanking the Governor Patrick, Speaker DiMasi, and Senate President Murray for their leadership on this issue and for having the foresight to convene the Biofuels Task Force. I would also like to thank Secretary Bowles and Dave Cash and all of the members of the Biofuels Task Force who worked so hard to publish the Task Force Report.
- The deadlines were tight, but we met them, largely because the staff at EEA worked overtime to get the work done.
- This legislation represents the energy policy of the future – a future where we have learned to control our greenhouse gas emissions, learned to power our transportation fleet on something other than fossil fuels... a future where the air is cleaner and the energy sources are in our backyard, not half way around the world.
- This legislation, together with the Green Communities Act and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, will reduce carbon emissions in the Commonwealth, make us less dependent on fossil fuels and improve our air quality.
- It addresses climate change by encouraging the use of less carbon intensive fuels as substitutes for gasoline, diesel fuel and home heating oil. The legislation also calls for development of a low carbon fuel standard by 2010. Emissions from the transportation sector make up more than 30% of our total greenhouse gas emissions, so this is an important step.
- The legislation addresses our dependence on fossil fuels by encouraging the innovative development of alternative fuels that can be used in place of petroleum products.

- It is good for the environment and good for the Massachusetts economy.
- With this legislation, Massachusetts could see over 6,000 new jobs and over a billion dollars in new revenue by encouraging the growth of the biofuels sector.
- Massachusetts can contribute not only its scientific and technological expertise, but can also become a producer of biofuel feedstock, through timber harvesting and use of agricultural waste like corn husks and cranberry chaff.
- In conclusion, I would like to again congratulate the leadership in the House and Senate and the Governor for having the vision to imagine a future with fewer carbon emissions and no fossil fuels.
- Thank you.