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Biomass Energy Can Help Sustain America's Forests *If done right, BCAP will foster investments in private forests*

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) today delivered a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supporting the purposes of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). NAFO pledged to work with the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure that BCAP is implemented effectively and in accordance with its intended purposes to help meet the nation's renewable energy and climate change objectives while also sustaining private forests on rural landscapes.

David P. Tenny, President and CEO of NAFO, said, "We strongly support the BCAP as a means of providing carbon neutral energy from renewable forest biomass as part of our contribution to cleaner energy and a better climate. If administered properly, BCAP can help provide these important benefits, while developing vital new markets that give forest owners the financial means to maintain their forests in a working condition for the long term."

The NAFO letter to USDA emphasized that the BCAP program should be administered in a way that:

- Recognizes that new markets for energy from forest biomass help sustain working forests as forests.
- Fosters a level playing field for all potential sources of biomass energy.
- Does not arbitrarily limit or otherwise allocate the use of renewable forest biomass in the marketplace.
- Is fiscally responsible.

Tenny explained that, "As an emerging market, energy from renewable forest biomass can add that extra revenue stream that helps maintain the economic viability of private forests and preserves the many environmental and social benefits they provide in rural America. The resulting investment by forest owners makes forests more productive and the raw materials they produce more plentiful for all end users. That is good for the environment, for forest owners and for the economy.

"If done right, BCAP can provide the incentives to create a new, sustainable marketplace for renewable forest biomass, capturing the full benefit of this renewable, carbon-neutral energy source."

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NAFO is an organization of private forest owners committed to advancing federal policies that promote the economic and environmental values of privately-owned forests at the national level. NAFO membership encompasses more than 75 million acres of private forestland in 47 states. To see the economic impact of America's working forests, visit www.nafoalliance.org/economic-impact-report.