

June 24, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
Chairman, Agriculture Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman, Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker, Majority Leader Hoyer, Chairman Peterson, and Chairman Waxman:

As Congress considers the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, we urge you to appropriately include renewable forest biomass as an energy source to meet our nation's renewable energy goals. We are very concerned about the impact the current definition will have on the ability of private and federal land to participate in the production of renewable energy. The definition should conform to the definition Congress enacted last year in the "Farm Bill," the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8101 (12)).

Forest biomass is plentiful, carbon-neutral and essential to meet our nation's renewable energy objectives, whether for electricity, transportation fuels or other energy applications. All regions of the country should be able to fully contribute to and benefit from the growing renewable energy industry. The proper utilization of forest biomass for energy will provide significant economic, environmental and social benefits to the country and bring timely aid to struggling rural economies.

America's private and public forests are uniquely suited to help meet our nation's renewable energy needs. Renewable forest biomass from these lands could provide as much as one-third of the energy needed to meet an RES and could make significant contributions to the production of next generation transportation fuels. Sound management of our forests to provide biomass energy will also contribute to their long-term health and vitality – improving wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, aiding adaptation to climate change and reducing catastrophic wildfires that emit millions of tons of CO₂ and other GHGs each year.

Again, we are strongly supportive of the "Farm Bill" definition for the production of electricity and transportation fuels in H.R. 2454. Americans will appreciate the low-cost, clean and renewable energy that renewable forest biomass can provide.

Sincerely,

ADAGE
American Electric Power
American Forest Foundation
American Forest Resource Council
American Loggers Council

Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho
Associated Oregon Loggers
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Public and Land-grant
Universities Board on Natural Resources

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Binational Softwood Lumber Council
Black Hills Forest Resource Association
Boone & Crockett Club
Camp Fire Club of America
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Colorado Timber Industry Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Dallas Safari Club
Deere & Company
Entergy
FirstEnergy Corp.
Flathead Economic Policy Center
Forest Landowners Association
Hardwood Federation
Intermountain Forest Association
Louisiana Forestry Association
Michigan Association of Timbermen
Michigan Forest Products Council
Montana Logging Association
Mule Deer Foundation
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of Counties

National Association of State Foresters
National Association of University Forest
Resources Programs
National Forest Counties and Schools
Coalition
National Trappers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Woodland Owners Association
North American Bear Foundation
Northern Arizona Loggers Association
NorthWestern Energy
Oregon Small Woodlands Association
Professional Logging Contractors of Maine
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Society of American Foresters
Southern Company
Texas Forestry Association
Texas Wildlife Association
Virginia Forest Products Association
Washington Contract Loggers Association
Woodlands Carbon Company
Xcel Energy

cc: The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515