

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

The Honorable Dr. Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

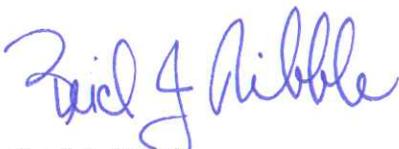
Dear Administrator McCarthy, Secretary Moniz, and Secretary Vilsack:

We write to support biomass energy as a sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant energy source. Federal policies across all departments and agencies must remove any uncertainties and contradictions through a clear, unambiguous message that forest bioenergy is part of the nation's energy future.

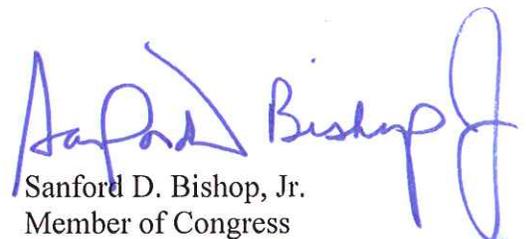
Many states are relying on renewable biomass to meet their energy goals, and we support renewable biomass to create jobs and economic growth while meeting our nation's energy needs. A comprehensive science, technical, and legal administrative record supports a clear and simple policy establishing the benefits of energy from forest biomass. Federal policies that add unnecessary costs and complexity will discourage rather than encourage investment in working forests, harvesting operations, bioenergy, wood products, and paper manufacturing. Unclear or contradictory signals from federal agencies could discourage biomass utilization as an energy solution.

The carbon neutrality of forest biomass has been recognized repeatedly by numerous studies, agencies, institutions, legislation, and rules around the world, and there has been no dispute about the carbon neutrality of biomass derived from residuals of forest products manufacturing and agriculture. Our constituents employed in the biomass supply chain deserve a federal policy that recognizes the clear benefits of forest bioenergy. We urge you to ensure that federal policies are consistent and reflect the carbon neutrality of these types of bioenergy.

Sincerely,



Reid J. Ribble
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



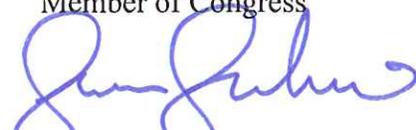
Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Gwen Graham
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen
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Tom Cole

Tom Cole
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Joe Courtney
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Ander Crenshaw

Ander Crenshaw
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Member of Congress

John J. Duncan, Jr.

John J. Duncan, Jr.
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Stephen Lee Fincher

Stephen Lee Fincher
Member of Congress

John Fleming

John Fleming
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J. Randy Forbes

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Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

Trent Franks

Trent Franks
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John Garamendi

John Garamendi
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Louie Gohmert

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte

Bob Goodlatte
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Tom Graves

Tom Graves
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Brett Guthrie
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Leonard Lance
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Rick Larsen
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Robert E. Latta
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Tom McClintock

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Mick Mulvaney

Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress

Kristi Noem

Kristi Noem
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Hal Rogers
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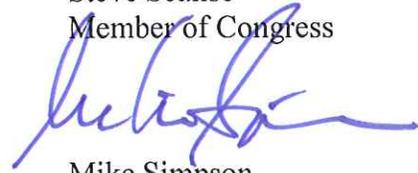
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



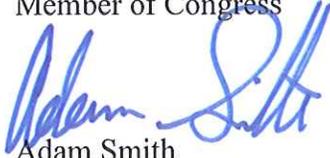
Austin Scott
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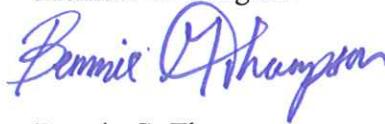
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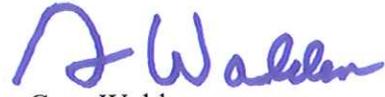
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Lynn A. Westmoreland
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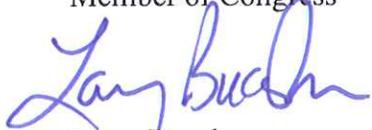
Joe Wilson
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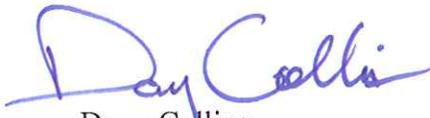


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Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress

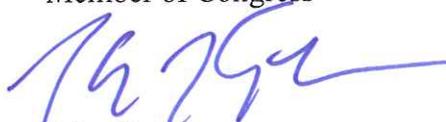

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J. French Hill
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John Katko
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Ron Kind
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Ami Bera
Member of Congress

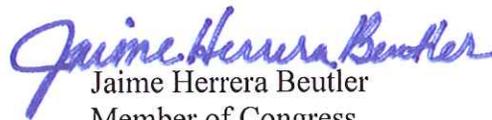

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Member of Congress


Bill Foster
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Jaime Herrera Beutler
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Trent Kelly
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Adam Kinzinger
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Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

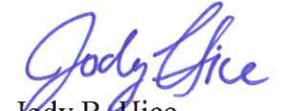

Mo Brooks
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David Scott
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Glenn 'GT' Thompson
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Scott R. Tipton
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Ann Wagner
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Jackie Walorski
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Bruce Westerman
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David Young
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Ryan K. Zinke
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