



Biomass Power Association Applauds U.S. Senate on Energy Bill's Biomass Carbon Neutrality Amendment

Senate Passed Energy Bill Today with Amendment Sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins

Washington, DC – April 20, 2016 – Biomass Power Association today congratulated the U.S. Senate on the passage of S. 2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act. The final bill includes amendment 3140, proposed by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) that recognizes the carbon neutrality of energy from forest biomass as long as forest stocks are stable or increasing. The amendment was co-sponsored by Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Sen. Angus King (I-ME), Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT), Sen. Al Franken (D-MN), Sen. Michael Crapo (R-ID) and Sen. James Risch (R-ID).

“We are enormously grateful to Sen. Collins, and to all co-sponsors of this amendment, which accurately reflects the carbon beneficial impacts of power from forest biomass,” said Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of Biomass Power Association. “We also thank the National Alliance of Forest Owners for their strong advocacy work. If adopted in the final conferenced bill, this amendment would provide the much-needed certainty that will help our industry grow. We hope to see the amendment in the final bill, and to see the President sign off on it.”

The inclusion of this amendment in today’s energy bill is only the latest recognition on the federal level of the benefits of bioenergy – and the science supporting its positive environmental contributions.

Two weeks ago, the Environmental Protection Agency held a [workshop](#) on the inclusion of biomass in its Clean Power Plan. The economists, scientists and state policy experts assembled by the EPA agreed that biomass power can play a key role in carbon management for states under the Clean Power Plan. They cited evidence of forest growth and/or stability, and the role of biomass markets in keeping forests healthy. They also pointed to economic factors that prevent whole trees from being used for energy, dispelling a common misperception about the biomass industry.

While there have been many positive developments for biomass in recent weeks, there is still uncertainty on how biomass will be treated under the Clean Power Plan. Biomass was not included as a compliance strategy in the federal model implementation plan. The EPA’s Science Advisory Board has not yet finalized its framework for accounting for carbon from biogenic sources.

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