



Biomass Power Association Supports Nomination of Former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue as Agriculture Secretary

Washington, DC – January 19, 2017 – The Biomass Power Association today praised President-Elect Donald Trump’s nominee to head the U.S. Department of Agriculture, former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue.

“Under Governor Perdue’s leadership, the state of Georgia embraced bioenergy in many forms, including biomass power,” said Bob Cleaves, President of Biomass Power Association. “The Agriculture Secretary plays an important role in overseeing forestry on federal lands. Biomass can help enhance forest health by providing a market for hazardous fuel removal.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and its Forest Service have been strong advocates of energy from wood. The agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013 with several national trade associations, including BPA, to promote the understanding and use of wood energy. USDA has also established [Statewide Wood Energy Teams](#) in 15 states to increase the knowledge and use of woody biomass for energy.

“We anticipate that, if confirmed, Secretary Perdue would appreciate the many ways that biomass power can support the goals of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Forest Service,” Cleaves continued.

Georgia is currently home to 162 MW of biomass power capacity, with more due to come online this year. Under Governor Perdue’s leadership, a 17 MW biomass facility opened in North Georgia, and construction began on a 50 MW facility in LaGrange and a 55 MW facility in Barnesville. Gov. Perdue also supported the development of other wood energy projects including wood pellet plants and biofuels production.

In 2008, *Forbes Magazine* named Georgia the third state in the nation for alternative energy from biomass, citing the timber-rich Georgia Biomass Corridor.

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