



## **Biomass Power Association Statement on Chairman Baucus Energy Tax Proposal**

**Washington, DC – December 18, 2013** – Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of Biomass Power Association, today issued the following statement in response to the energy tax proposal released by Senator Max Baucus, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee:

“The proposal provides an interesting, and potentially helpful, approach to leveling the playing field among all renewables. For too long, the Internal Revenue Code has been plagued by different rates, terms, and benefits, often having the unintended consequence of favoring intermittent sources of power (solar and wind) more than baseload (biomass, waste-to-energy and hydropower). Each plays an important role and this is an important step in recognizing that fact.

“With respect to biomass, it’s important that Chairman Baucus has recognized its enormous greenhouse gas benefits when compared to fossil fuel sources like natural gas and coal. At the same time, we are concerned that the proposal creates regulatory uncertainty. The use of waste wood and forest residues for energy is undeniably beneficial from a carbon perspective, and we don’t need another, separate proceeding at EPA to reach that conclusion.”

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*Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 15,500 jobs nationwide. Power plants are predominantly located in rural communities, creating thousands of jobs and producing millions in revenue for small towns. Biomass power is a clean and abundant source of electricity that will allow states to pursue even more aggressive goals for increasing their use of renewable energy in the future.*