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Biomass Power Association to EPA: Passing BoilerMACT Would Endanger Renewable Energy Industry

BPA Urges EPA to Reconsider Stringent, Misguided Emissions Rule for Biomass Facilities

Washington, DC – Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of Biomass Power Association, hosted a conference call today to discuss why the Environmental Protection Agency's passage of its proposed BoilerMACT rule would be harmful to the nation's entire renewable energy sector and decrease the likelihood that the nation will meet its stringent renewable energy goals. The BoilerMACT rule, if passed, would drastically and unfairly increase emissions standards for biomass facilities across the country, possibly causing many plants to shut down. Biomass currently accounts for more than 50% of the nation's renewable energy, and the Department of Energy believes that biomass could potentially supply as much as 14% of the nation's overall energy by the year 2030.

"It is unfair to expect the biomass industry, which contributes significantly to the nation's power supply and renewable energy goals, to adhere to emissions standards above and beyond the standards applied to other industries," said Bob Cleaves. "Besides endangering the biomass industry and thousands of American jobs it provides, this rule would send a message to other renewable energy sources that the EPA might put them out of business, too. We hope to work with

the EPA to develop emissions standards that reasonably apply to our industry while protecting public health and the environment."

The Biomass Power Association submitted detailed comments and suggestions to the EPA on Monday regarding its proposed BoilerMACT rule. In its letter, BPA details the support for the industry expressed by nine various government agencies and branches. The letter also asks the EPA to consider three specific issues when considering the BoilerMACT rule:

- allowing facilities to demonstrate that emissions of certain pollutants do not pose a public health threat;
- subcategorizing units and providing facilities with the opportunity to meet standards at reasonable costs; and
- using a method to set emissions standards that are based on what the real world best performing units actually can achieve.

The letter states, "In light of the overwhelming support for biomass from every corner of government, it is imperative that EPA adopt a rule that is protective of the public health and the environment while also allowing this critically important energy source to be fully utilized. We are concerned that the proposed rules will impose tens of billions of dollars in capital costs at thousands of facilities across the country. Thus, we ask EPA to consider flexible approaches that appropriately address the diversity of boilers, operations, sectors and fuels that could prevent severe job losses and billions of dollars in unnecessary regulatory costs."

To read the full comments submitted by the Biomass Power Association to the EPA, please [click here](#).

Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 14,000 jobs nationwide. Power plants are predominately 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.

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The Biomass Power Association is a member-driven organization with the goal of increasing the use of biomass power and creating new jobs and opportunities in the biomass industry. As policymakers at every level explore ways to lower greenhouse gases and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, BPA is the leading advocate at the state and federal level for a strong commitment to clean, renewable biomass energy. Members include local owners and operators of existing biomass facilities, suppliers, plant developers and others all across the U.S. For more information please visit www.BiomassPowerAssociation.org.

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