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Biomass Power Association CEO: Let's Get the Facts Right on Biomass

**Biomass Industry Is Essential Source of Clean, Renewable Energy;
Environmental Working Group Report Makes False Assumptions in Report
Released Yesterday**

WASHINGTON, DC – Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of Biomass Power Association, addressed on a media call a misleading report released yesterday by the Environmental Working Group on biomass fuels. Cleaves emphasized that, contrary to implications in the report, the biomass industry -- particularly the Biomass Power Association and its members -- does not advocate harvesting trees for energy production. Rather, the vast majority of biomass facilities utilize wood waste material and industry byproducts for clean energy production.

"The study has no relevance to how biomass power is generated in this country today and no relevance to how it will be generated in the foreseeable future," said Bob Cleaves. "It uses misplaced assumptions, bad information and questionable carbon math in order to make a policy statement about a problem that does not exist."

The Biomass Power Association is not aware of any facilities that use whole trees for energy. This is not an economically sustainable approach to biomass, as the costs of cutting down one tree far outweigh the potential energy benefits.

Cleaves also disagreed with the Environmental Working Group's assertion that biomass power would be unable to meet the 2025 renewable energy goals without harvesting trees. He cited Southern Alliance for Clean Energy projections that clean energy could double in the country by utilizing waste wood biofuels from just four southern states.

Cleaves challenged the notion contained in the report that the federal government provides tax incentives for using whole trees as biofuels: "Both the production tax credit and the investment tax credit passed by Congress last year

are only available for waste wood products and other organic by-products—not merchantable timber."

Finally, Cleaves highlighted the biomass industry's crucial role as the nation increasingly values clean energy. "Last night the President called for a constructive dialogue on changing our nation's renewable energy policy. We will never accomplish change in this country by engaging in tired rhetoric and environmental scare tactics. We welcome the debate but let's get the facts right."

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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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