



For Immediate Release: September 13, 2010

Media Contact: Carrie Annand at (202) 470-5367;

CarrieAnnand@rational360.com

Biomass Power Association President Highlights Potential of Biomass to Create Clean Energy and Jobs at Montana Economic Development Summit

**Biomass Power Association President and CEO Bob Cleaves Joins
Energy Secretary Steven Chu, CEOs Warren Buffet, Jeff Immelt, Steve
Ballmer and Other Distinguished Guests to Discuss Economic
Opportunities in Montana**

WASHINGTON, DC – President and CEO of Biomass Power Association, Bob Cleaves, will speak in Butte, MT, today at the [Montana Economic Development Summit](#) on the panel: “Beetlekill: From Epidemic to Economic Opportunity.” The Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic has damaged millions of trees in Montana and other western states, and this panel will examine ways in which these damaged trees can create clean, domestic energy and jobs.

“Our industry takes pride in our ability to safely and efficiently remove forest debris and wood waste material and turn it into sustainable, renewable energy for hundreds of thousands of Americans,” said Cleaves. “I look forward to underscoring biomass power’s clean energy capabilities and its potential to create hundreds of new jobs in Montana.”

The summit is hosted by Montana senior U.S. Senator Max Baucus. This conference, held once every three years, brings together Montana's business men and women with experts in energy, technology, the arts and other sectors to discuss how they can boost the state's economy and employment. Keynote speakers at the conference include United States Secretary of Energy Dr. Steven Chu, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Warren Buffett, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and GE Chairman and CEO Jeff Immelt.

Cleaves will be joined on the panel by:

- Craig Rawlings, Forest Business Consulting Manger, Montana Community Development Corporation
- Joe Kerkvliet, Ph.D., Senior Economist, The Wilderness Society, Northern Rockies Regional Office
- Bruce Fox, Director of Forest and Rangeland Management, U.S. Forest Service, Region 1
- William F. Hagy III, Director of Alternative Energy Policy, USDA

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.

**Contact Carrie Annand at (202) 470-5367 or
CarrieAnnand@rational360.com.**

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.

###