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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USA Biomass to Chair Platts' National Biomass Power Forum

Chairman Robert Cleaves summarizes forum's goal: "to expand clean, renewable biomass power for the benefit of our nation's economy and environment."

PORTLAND, Maine — USA Biomass Chairman Robert Cleaves will chair Platts' highly anticipated national Biomass Power Forum November 6-7 in Florida, which features biopower experts from throughout the country — including Cleaves — who will explore biomass economics, key biomass finance structures, the role biomass plays in meeting RPS, and opportunities for expansion and financial investment in this growing industry.

"It's an honor to chair Platts' Forum this year. Not only is Platts' the global leader in energy information, but I couldn't believe more strongly in the Forum's ultimate goal, which is to expand clean, renewable biomass for the benefit of our nation's economy and environment," said USA Biomass Chairman Robert Cleaves.

Conference speakers include officials from the US Department of Energy, USDA Forest Service and Research Development, California Energy Commission, and dozens of others actively involved in growing the nation's biomass power industry.

"Biomass power is the second most prevalent form of renewable energy in the country, but our industry faces a great many challenges — from financing and investment, to technological and production issues. By promoting frank, goal-oriented discussions among these experts, we hope to spur creative solutions that will enable

our industry to increase production, thus further reducing greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming,” said Cleaves.

According to Department of Energy estimates, biomass-powered plants currently provide about 2% of the nation’s energy. DOE projects that the potential for biomass could grow to 15% by 2020 — a goal that must be realized to meet federal and state renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

USA Biomass is the only national organization devoted solely to the growth and long-term viability of biomass-powered electric generation — a growing industry that is strengthening America’s rural economy, promoting energy independence and reducing carbon emissions. It has 41 member companies operating 80 power plants in 20 different states. These power plants use a broad range of biomass fuels — from wood chips in Maine, bagasse in Florida and rice hulls in Louisiana, to forest waste in Arizona and orchard prunings in California. Their website is www.usabiomass.org.

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