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**ROBERT E. CLEAVES, IV, CHAIRMAN USA BIOMASS
STATEMENT AT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE BRIEFING
ON THE IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TO REDUCE GHG EMISSIONS**

Washington, DC— Today, Robert E. Cleaves, IV, Chairman of USA Biomass, participated in the Environmental and Energy Study Institute's (EESI) briefing entitled, "Can Renewable Energy Meet the Urgent Challenge of Climate Change?"— a discussion on the critical role renewable energy electricity generation technologies can play in reducing US greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

USA Biomass is the only national organization dedicated to representing the views and interests of the nation's open-loop biomass electricity industry, which provides more than 1600MW of baseload, grid-connected, renewable electricity.

At the briefing, Cleaves made the following statement:

"I'd like to thank EESI for bringing together the renewable energy community to discuss the important role that renewable electricity plays in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Biomass electricity is produced from the controlled combustion of untreated cellulosic wastes, such as bark, orchard trimming, rice hulls, and sugar bagasse.

"Biomass electricity production is the only renewable that lowers net greenhouse gas emissions below a zero greenhouse gas emissions level. This is because the usual disposal options for wood and agriculture wastes emit large quantities of methane gas and CO₂ through decomposition, forest fires, and landfilling. Biomass should be recognized for the significant role it will play in providing a net reduction of the greenhouse gas effect.

"It is important for Congress to recognize the environmental and economic benefits that biomass electricity provides. To ensure continued growth in the Biomass industry, we must have policies that will level the playing field among the renewable technologies by providing tax credit equity, extending the placed-in-service date, and maintaining Section 45 benefits for existing plants.

"I look forward to working with Congress and the other interested groups to ensure that Biomass is recognized for the role it plays in providing negative greenhouse gas emissions."

Attachment: USA Biomass Power Point Presentation