



Position of the American Loggers Council on a Definition for Renewable Biomass

The American Loggers Council (ALC) is a non-profit organization representing professional timber harvesters in 30 States across the United States. Our members have a responsibility for sustainably harvesting forest products from all of our nation's forests, including both private and public lands. The members of the ALC support a broad definition for Renewable Biomass which would:

1. Utilize the forests' energy and climate benefits to replace or displace traditional fossil fuel.

- ALC views forests as a strategic renewable natural resource and supports diverse and robust markets for the full spectrum of woody materials to allow landowners and foresters to practice sustainable forestry while providing new opportunities and jobs for professional timber harvesters utilizing previously unused, unmerchantable material.
- Intensive forest management can improve growth rates and productivity of forest stands resulting in increases in woody biomass (and other forest products) and greater ability of forests to sequester carbon.

2. Include a broader definition of Forest Biomass in HR 6

- Restricting wood from private lands and prohibiting the use of wood from federal lands are unnecessary constraints that leave out completely sustainable and readily available sources of green energy.
- The current definition of eligible biomass found in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (HR 6) severely constrains the ability of federal and non-federal forest lands to supply feedstock to our nation's renewable fuel goals. By limiting our nation's private forest landowners ability to market their feedstock ensures that those lands can and will be converted to non-forest uses over time. By eliminating biomass from public lands, the language ensures that our ability to manage our public forest land is limited and that we will continue to have forest health issues such as catastrophic wildfires and insect and disease infestations.

3. Promotes economic growth and acts as a stimulus to rural economies

- Provide new markets for woody biomass which provide new income sources for family owned forests, helping them to recover their costs to own and manage their forests.
- Create new industry and an opportunity for communities to create and maintain family-wage jobs and diversify their economies.
- Utilizes existing sustainable resources to create energy, not requiring extensive capital investment by rural communities that are historically located in timber dependent regions.

The American Loggers Council commends Congress on addressing the immense challenge of reducing the nation's dependence on fossil fuels. All renewable resources will be needed to meet the country's energy needs. Forests have a key advantage given their ability to produce energy independent of weather conditions that other renewable sources are subject to. We are committed to help craft a definition for Renewable Biomass that addresses sustainability concerns related to forests in a way that draws upon the existing forest harvesting practices – and making the changes where needed - to meet local forest conditions.