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## **Biomass Power Association CEO: Massachusetts Biomass Study Badly Misrepresents Biomass Industry Practices**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Following is a statement by Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of the Biomass Power Association, in response to a study released today by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences on biomass sustainability in the state of Massachusetts:

“We continue to review the findings of the study, but on initial review the Biomass Power Association finds the Manomet report is based on assumptions that do not accurately reflect real world practices.

“The report’s authors appear to focus primarily on growing and harvesting trees for use in the generation of energy. For decades, the biomass industry has taken forest and agricultural by-products—everything from rice hulls, to sugar cane wastes, to wood residues from the forest products industry—to generate electricity. These materials, which are collected sustainably, would otherwise be dumped in landfills, openly burned, or left as fodder for forest fires. When you do the “math,” the carbon equation for this form of biomass is dramatically favorable.

“Biomass power is utilized and recognized for its sustainability across the country. Virtually every state in the country that mandates using renewable energy has endorsed the use of biomass power as a clean, carbon-neutral, renewable energy source. In fact, the California Air Resources Board – known across the country for its tough environmental standards – recently deemed biomass to be exempt from California’s cap and trade program, supporting the biomass industry’s status as an important renewable energy source.

“Additionally, respected scientific and environmental groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists and The Forest Guild have expressed strong support for converting sustainable biomass to electricity.

“Time again, virtually every federal agency that has looked at the carbon issue—the Department of Energy, USDA, EPA—has recognized the benefits of biomass.”

Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 18,000 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.

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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](http://www.BiomassPowerAssociation.org).*

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