



American Biomass Energy Association

American Biomass Energy Association Applauds President Trump for Timber Production Expansion Executive Order

Washington, DC – The American Biomass Energy Association announced its support and appreciation for the *Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production* Executive Order that was released by the White House on March 1st. The Order, which directs leadership of the various agencies that have oversight on forestry issues to develop strategies to boost domestic timber production, includes bioenergy among the critical American forest product industries.

ABEA, whose members create bioenergy in the form of clean renewable baseload electricity derived from wood that is not commercially viable, such as branches that are not suited for use in furniture or paper production, has long pushed for greater support for biomass power from the federal government.

Executive Director Carrie Annand said, “For too long, our members have been unsung heroes in American energy. Biomass energy companies clear waste wood that could serve as fuel for devastating wildfires from forests, provide reliable and well-paying rural jobs, and put clean electricity on the grid 24/7. This is labor-intensive work that has not enjoyed the bevy of incentives that other energy sources have received, and thus our industry is scarred by recent plant closures – and our members who are producing electricity operate on extremely thin margins. President Trump’s promise to support initiatives that empower forest bioenergy is an extraordinarily welcome message for ABEA to receive. We look forward to working with the Trump Administration on this extremely important issue.”

ABEA Board Chairman, Greg Blair (Biomass One – White City, OR) added that “ABEA has enjoyed an excellent working relationship with the US Forest Service over the years, but USFS has had their hands somewhat tied in terms of unleashing the full force of American biomass energy. This Executive Order has the potential to do a tremendous amount of good to forest industries, and for public safety. We are eager to work with the Trump Administration to implement policies that keep our biomass plants open, that support much needed revenue streams for American loggers, and that reduce the likelihood of wildfires.”

Section 1 of the Executive Order states that “The production of timber, lumber, paper, bioenergy, and other wood products (timber production) is critical to our Nation’s well-being. Timber production is essential for crucial human activities like construction and energy production. Furthermore, as recent disasters demonstrate, forest management and wildfire risk reduction projects can save American lives and communities.”

The American Biomass Energy Association is the nation’s leading organization working to expand and advance the use of clean, renewable, and reliable biomass energy. ABEA represents 80 biomass power plants in 20 states across the U.S. Currently, the biomass energy industry protects the health and safety of our nation’s forests while providing 14,000 jobs nationwide, many of which are in rural areas.