

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 30, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Dr. Ernest Moniz
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Administrator McCarthy, Secretary Moniz, and Secretary Vilsack:

We write to support biomass energy as a sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant energy source. Federal policies across all departments and agencies must remove any uncertainties and contradictions through a clear, unambiguous message that forest bioenergy is part of the nation's energy future.

Many states are relying on renewable biomass to meet their energy goals, and we support renewable biomass to create jobs and economic growth while meeting our nation's energy needs. A comprehensive science, technical, and legal administrative record supports a clear and simple policy establishing the benefits of energy from forest biomass. Federal policies that add unnecessary costs and complexity will discourage rather than encourage investment in working forests, harvesting operations, bioenergy, wood products, and paper manufacturing. Unclear or contradictory signals from federal agencies could discourage biomass utilization as an energy solution.

The carbon neutrality of forest biomass has been recognized repeatedly by numerous studies, agencies, institutions, legislation, and rules around the world, and there has been no dispute about the carbon neutrality of biomass derived from residuals of forest products manufacturing and agriculture. Our constituents employed in the biomass supply chain deserve a federal policy that recognizes the clear benefits of forest bioenergy. We urge you to ensure that federal policies are consistent and reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator

Kelly A. Ayotte

Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator

Roy Blunt

Roy Blunt
United States Senator

John Boozman

John Boozman
United States Senator

Richard Burr

Richard Burr
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Shelley Moore Capito

Shelley Moore Capito
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Bill Cassidy, M.D.

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Thad Cochran

Thad Cochran
United States Senator

John Cornyn

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Tammy Baldwin

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Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
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Robert P. Casey, Jr.
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Joe Donnelly

Joe Donnelly
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United States Senator

Al Franken

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United States Senator

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



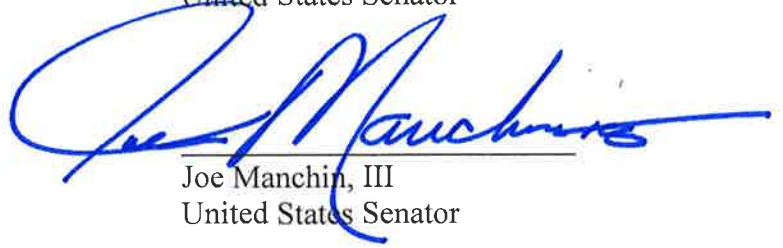
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator



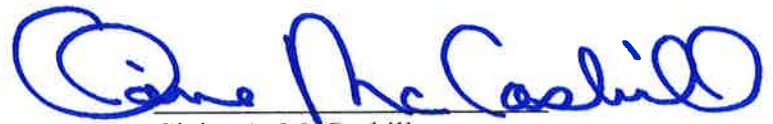
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



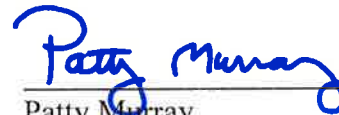
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United States Senator



Claire A. McCaskill
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



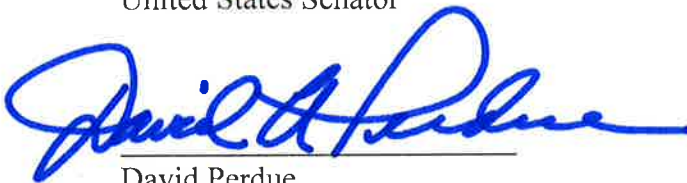
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



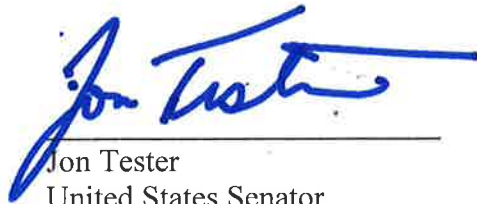
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United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
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Jon Tester
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator



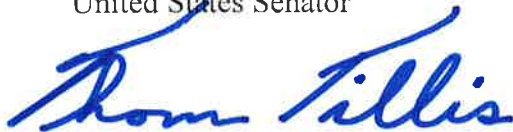
Tim Scott
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Richard C. Shelby
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Patrick J. Toomey
United States Senator



David Vitter
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator