

**From:** Jessica Marcus [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday 21 October 2016 22:46  
**To:** Jessica Marcus  
**Subject:** Multiple US Stakeholders Express Strong Support for Biomass Energy  
**Attachments:** Aurora ER - Comparing RE technology costs - Feb 25 2016 final.PDF; Scientific Commentary on proposed biomass legislation Sept 14 2016.pdf

**Importance:** High

Dear European Union Officials –

We would like to bring to your attention a recent [resolution](#) supporting bioenergy from the US National Association of Counties (NACo). This influential association brings together over 1,100 local government officials from across the United States. At their 2016 Annual Business Meeting, a resolution was approved supporting the sustainability and carbon benefits of using renewable wood energy in place of fossil fuels. Tony Hyde, a member of the Board of Directors for NACo and the sponsor of this resolution was featured in a [piece](#) in the Morning Consult, a Washington DC publication targeted at policy makers and Capitol Hill staffers, over the summer.

We would also like to share a recent letter (attached) from several leading carbon and energy scientists to the chairs of the US House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and Environment supporting the carbon benefits of working forests, stating that “the research on land use and markets has demonstrated that strong markets for wood encourage US forest owners to invest in forests and keep their land in forests” and points out that the true threat to deforestation in the US is from urban development, not from bioenergy production.

These local officials and scientists are not alone. As you know, the benefits of using biomass are well-recognized. There is a multitude of peer-reviewed research available showing the sustainability and carbon benefits of biomass, including:

- [Forest Carbon Accounting Considerations in US Bioenergy Policy](#) by the Society of American Foresters, printed in the Journal of Forestry
- [Sustainability Guidelines and Forest Market Response: An Assessment of European Union Pellet Demand in the Southeastern United States](#) by researchers at Duke University and North Carolina State University
- [Carbon Savings with Transatlantic Trade in Pellets: Accounting for Market-Driven Effects](#) by multiple academics, including the Chair of the US EPA Scientific Advisory Board Panel on Biogenic Carbon Accounting

Beyond academic research, multiple studies have been done by forestry and market experts that show the value of strong forest markets and the positive impact of bioenergy on forest inventory. These resources include:

- [Wood Supply Market Trends in the US South 2000-2015](#) by Forest2Market
- [Effect of Policies on Pellet Production and Forests in the US South](#) by the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station

The industry also sees support from a growing number of leading officials, including US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, US Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, and former UK Secretary of Energy Amber Rudd. Most recently, Governor Hutchinson of Arkansas wrote a [letter](#) directly to European Commission President Juncker supporting US forest sustainability and wood energy production. Additionally, the industry gets much recognition for the positive impact biomass can have on sustainable forest management, including:

- An [article](#) from Tim Echols of the Georgia Public Service Commission
- A [piece](#) by Steven Troxler, North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture
- An [article](#) by John McMillan, Alabama Commissioner of Agriculture
- A [piece](#) from Glen McCullough, Executive Director of the Mississippi Development Authority

Biomass is also the most cost-effective renewable option available when accounting for the full systems costs of stabilizing the grid against intermittent renewables, including costs for balancing, transmitting, etc. We worked earlier this year with Aurora Energy Research out of Oxford University to analyze the net costs of various renewable energies and found biomass to be cheaper overall than offshore wind and solar. A summary of this report is attached. While this is specific to the UK energy grid, the concepts are similar for energy grids across Europe.

We hope this information is useful to you as you work to develop a EU-wide bioenergy policy. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,  
The US Industrial Pellet Association (USIPA)

*Jessica B. Marcus*  
*VP of Policy and Operations*  
*US Industrial Pellet Association*



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