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## **Environmental Protection Agency Recognizes Biomass as Important Element of Clean Power Plan**

*Plan Codifies Biomass as Carbon Reduction Strategy for States*

**Washington, DC – August 3, 2015** – Biomass Power Association (BPA) today praised the Administration for adopting aggressive renewable energy goals recognizing the role of biomass as a renewable energy source. The Final Clean Power Plan states that the conversion of clean organic materials – such as forestry residues, agricultural byproducts and urban wood waste – to energy should be encouraged as a strategy to meet the Nation’s greenhouse gas reduction goals.

“Consistent with every State-based renewable energy initiative as well as the international community, the federal government has resoundingly recognized the role of ‘low value’ biomass as a renewable energy source,” said Bob Cleaves, president and CEO of Biomass Power Association. “We thank Administrator McCarthy and her team at EPA for their role in ensuring a strong future for biomass in the United States.”

Importantly, EPA “generally acknowledges the CO<sub>2</sub> and climate policy benefits of waste-derived biogenic feedstocks” as well as “sustainably-derived agricultural and forest biomass.” While it does not address the specific types of feedstocks that will qualify under the plan, BPA expects that all biomass fuels used by its members will be considered acceptable.

Of the 35 states with current renewable portfolio standards (RPS), all recognize the role of biomass in accomplishing their renewable energy goals. As states design their carbon reduction plans under the Clean Power Plan, they can rely on biomass as a component of their carbon reduction strategies.

BPA also expressed concern over the complicated method states – and biomass facility owners – must comply with under the new plan to gain approval by EPA for their biomass feedstocks.

“Biomass has much to offer states in the way of reliable power and a way to put forestry residues and other agricultural byproducts to good use,” continued Cleaves. “While we are encouraged with EPA’s endorsement of biomass as a compliance tool to fight climate change, we are nonetheless concerned about the added complexity and cost associated with many of EPA’s recommendations. EPA should be doing everything possible to allow our sector to compete on a level playing field with other, often highly subsidized sources of energy. The last thing we should be doing is to increase the cost of generating renewable, baseload power that uniquely promotes healthy forests and rural economies.”

The [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) has recognized the potential for “non-food crops, farm residues and waste – collectively known as ‘biomass’” to meet up to 20% of the nation’s total

energy demand. Rocky Mountain Institute has developed similar models, projecting that “non-cropland biomass” could provide up to 23% of the nation’s energy consumed in 2050.

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*Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 15,500 jobs nationwide. Power plants are predominantly 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.*