



August 19, 2011

Dear Member of Congress,

In December, we were enlisted by the American Council On Renewable Energy's Biomass Coordinating Council ("BCC") to work on a subcommittee effort (the "Biomass Definition Subcommittee" or "BDS") to provide a universal definition of the term "biomass" to replace the existing sixteen distinct and active definitions of "biomass" in federal laws and regulations. This universal definition was envisioned to serve as the definition to be promulgated across the entire landscape of federal laws and regulations, including tax policy. The intended outcome would be to afford a more uniform treatment of biomass than that provided by today's patchwork of definitions directing the biomass energy and supply industries.

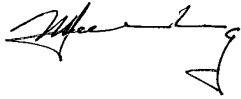
The BDS coalesced around modifications and additions to the Food, Energy and Conservation Act of 2008 (Farm Bill 2008) definition of biomass, which was enacted with bipartisan support. We reached this consensus using a set of equally considered "Founding Principles:"

1. Expansiveness of Definition – create the broadest language possible for "biomass" so as to promote its effective and sustainable development and use;
2. Environmental Stewardship – create a definition that reflects the environmental synergies of biomass (a carbon-neutral renewable resource) attentive to environmental, wildlife and natural system imperatives; and
3. Legislative Feasibility – create a definition that the BDS, BCC and ACORE believe can be enacted by Congress.

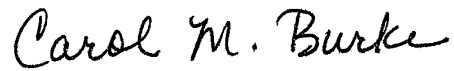
Since the formation of the BDS, the team has invested over 500 hours finalizing this biomass definition. Committed to transparency and being mindful of the BCC's commitment to the environment and wildlife habitat, and the use of biomass in a fully responsible and sustainable manner, the present definition was widely circulated to and vetted by a large and diverse stakeholder's group including industry, scientific, university and environmental members. Whenever practicable, the matters, issues and ideas commented on by these stakeholders were integrated into the definition per the Founding Principles. The revised definition was then distributed to and vetted by the BCC; first, for comments, which were also integrated wherever practicable into the definition per the Founding Principles and, second, for entire constituency a BCC vote. The final definition unanimously passed the vote of the BCC. Because of the importance of this issue to the biomass industry, we solicit your leadership and support for the attached definition that has been worked through the above-described independent review, comment and response process.

We ask Congress to join us in envisioning a new and vital frontier for the sustainable use of biomass in addressing the critical challenges of our times – economic stimulation, jobs, deficit reductions, climate change, energy independence and security, as well as environmental and social enhancement.

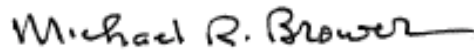
Best regards,



Bill Holmberg
Chairman
Biomass Coordinating Council
American Council On Renewable Energy



Carol Burke
Partner
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP



Michael Brower
Senior Federal Policy Director
Mosaic Federal Affairs



Charles R. "Bob" Brettell
Partner
Energy Asset Advisors, LLC

