



Biomass Power Association Expresses Gratitude to Rep. Herger, Senate Agriculture Committee

Biomass Industry Enjoys Banner Week on Capitol Hill; Herger Advocates for Biomass Tax Treatment Equal to Other Renewables; Senate Agriculture Committee Passes BCAP Funding

Washington, DC – May 1, 2012 – Biomass Power Association today expressed gratitude to Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA) for his remarks last week in support of a level playing field for all renewable energy sources' tax incentives. The Association also applauded the Senate Agriculture Committee for passing crucial funding for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) in its 2012 Farm Bill markup.

At a House Ways and Means Committee hearing on expiring tax provisions, Rep. Herger stated, "To the extent that some tax incentives for renewable energy may be maintained, I believe we should aim to make them technologically neutral and avoid picking winners and losers. Currently, wind energy receives a production tax credit that is double the level of other renewable resources, such as biomass and hydropower. The Renewable Energy Parity Act, which I have introduced with Mr. Thompson, would equalize the PTC for all renewables, and I urge the Subcommittee to consider this reform."

"We are extremely grateful to Senators Richard Lugar and Kent Conrad, and the other members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, for their support of the BCAP program," said Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of the Biomass Power Association. "BCAP not only helps biomass facilities stay in business, it also serves as forest fire prevention in many states. And we especially thank Congressman Wally Herger for his continued and strong support of biomass."

The Senate Agriculture Committee 2012 Farm Bill passed last week by a 16-5 vote included an amendment by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) and Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND) which will set mandatory funding for BCAP at \$193 million over the next five years. This will fund the collection, handling, storage and transportation of forest debris to be used as fuel at biomass facilities across the country. Clearing this forest floor debris helps prevent the spread of wildfires, saving states millions of dollars in fighting out-of-control blazes.

“Last week was a momentous week for biomass on Capitol Hill,” Cleaves continued. “Together with the pulp and paper industry, biomass provides half the nation’s renewable energy and employs thousands of Americans. Biomass is getting the recognition it deserves. We look forward to working with both the House and Senate to solidify these advances.”

Biomass power is a \$1 billion industry with 80 facilities in 20 states and provides over 14,000 jobs nationwide. Power plants are predominately 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.