



Biomass Power Association Sees Opportunity in President's Second Term Agenda

Tax Reform, Energy, Climate Change Initiatives Show Promise for Biomass

February 13, 2013 – Washington, DC – In response to President Obama's first State of the Union address of his second term in office, Biomass Power Association President and CEO Bob Cleaves issued the following statement:

"President Obama's second term agenda, if enacted as laid out in his State of the Union address, contains many initiatives that will benefit the biomass industry. Tax and energy reform, as well as policies to address climate change, will enhance the ability of the biomass industry to serve the nation as a reliable, dependable, renewable energy source.

"Comprehensive changes to our tax system stand to help industries and individuals alike gain a more solid footing while recovering from recent hardships. The solution should include ways to make the tax code fair and equal for all energy sources. It's time to extend tax benefits for sustainable energy sources for the long term, so that biomass and other industries can begin to plan for a more stable and productive future.

"We applaud President Obama for encouraging control of America's energy future. Biomass is a growing part of this, contributing to lower emissions, helping the nation rely on its own domestic fuel resources and using byproducts and waste materials that would likely end up in landfills.

"Finally, we agree on the need for a bipartisan, market-based solution to address climate change. We support the president's plan to take executive action if needed, but believe that all parties can work together to achieve a compromise.

"Biomass Power Association looks forward to working with the Administration and Congress however we can to implement these elements of President Obama's second term vision."

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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 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.