



## **Biomass Power Association Statement on Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Biomass Regulations**

*Extreme Regulations Target, Endanger Biomass Industry; Will Cause  
Unintended Effect of Harming Northeastern Forests*

**Washington, DC – May 1, 2012** – Biomass Power Association President & CEO Bob Cleaves today released the following statement on Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources' most recent biomass regulations:

“We are extremely disappointed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' latest round of biomass regulations. While we have no doubt that the Department of Energy Resources intended to protect the state's and region's forests with these rules, they are not based on sound science and, in reality, will have the opposite effect.

“As we have pointed out repeatedly, the Manomet study upon which these regulations are based did not explore the carbon accounting of energy using waste wood – the fuel used by the vast majority of biomass facilities. More important, the use of waste wood by the biomass industry actually promotes forest health by removing the dead, rotting material. This allows new growth to replace it and, in the process, absorb more carbon. If forests remain at constant levels or increase, then the net effect is that carbon that is being removed is being reabsorbed, and indeed is better than 'carbon neutral.'

“If the Massachusetts policy were applied nationally, almost 50% of the Nation's renewable energy – the portion supplied by biomass – would be considered non-renewable. Without policy support, new plants wouldn't be built, and existing facilities would close. The result would be less investment in forests, which would mean less carbon being absorbed, more land use conversions, and more carbon in the atmosphere.

“These regulations also have larger implications on the entire renewable energy industry, not just biomass. If one state is able to target biomass as a lesser renewable energy, then what is to stop another one from barring wind or solar power based on objective reasoning?

“If the true objective here is to reduce the use of fossil fuels in favor of homegrown, alternative energy sources – thereby reducing the carbon in our atmosphere – then Massachusetts is making a grave error.”

*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.*