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## **Statement by Biomass Power Association on President Obama's Renewable Energy Goals**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Biomass Power Association President and CEO Bob Cleaves issued the statement below following President Obama's State of the Union Address on January 25, 2011:

“The Biomass Power Association is eager to work with President Obama and Congress to meet the ambitious – yet attainable – renewable energy goals the President outlined in his State of the Union speech last night. President Obama challenged the nation to support a goal of generating 80% of America's electricity from clean energy sources by 2035.

“Biomass provides a significant portion of the nation's renewable energy portfolio. Utilizing wood waste and agricultural materials like tree trimmings and industry by-products is a carbon friendly form of energy that provides many thousands of jobs across the country.

“Some estimates indicate that biomass power accounts for as much as 50% of the renewable energy generated across the country. By our projections, biomass energy will continue to grow in the coming decades, particularly in densely forested regions like the Southeast.

“Biomass energy is increasingly receiving recognition for its ability to help America meet its renewable energy standards. Just this month, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson stated in a public letter, ‘...biomass can be part of a national strategy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and efforts are underway to foster the expansion of renewable resources and promote biomass as ways of addressing climate change and enhancing forest management.’

“We at the Biomass Power Association look forward to doing our part in meeting, and exceeding, the President's aspirational electricity goals alongside other forms of renewable energy.”

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*The Biomass Power Association is a member-driven organization with the goal of increasing the use of biomass power and creating new jobs and opportunities in the biomass industry. As policymakers at every level explore ways to lower greenhouse gases and reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, BPA is the leading advocate at the state and federal level for a strong commitment to clean, renewable biomass energy. Members include local owners and operators of existing biomass facilities, suppliers, plant developers and others all across the U.S. For more information please visit [www.BiomassPowerAssociation.org](http://www.BiomassPowerAssociation.org).*