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Biomass Power Association Applauds EPA Decision on Carbon Regulation Deferral for Biomass

WASHINGTON, DC – President and CEO of the Biomass Power Association (BPA) Bob Cleaves today applauded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision to delay carbon dioxide (CO₂) regulation of biomass facilities for three years. During this time, the EPA will classify biomass as a "Best Available Control Technology" and will provide states with policy guidance on how to support this decision.

In a letter sent today to Congressional supporters of biomass, EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson stated, "As you know, 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."

The deferral by EPA will allow the agency more time to examine and monitor the science behind biomass power's carbon neutrality. The Biomass Power Association is hopeful that the agency will conclude that biomass power – when done right – is a reliable, renewable energy source.

Bob Cleaves, President and CEO of the Biomass Power Association, issued the following statement:

"The members of the Biomass Power Association and I are strongly encouraged by the EPA's decision to delay regulation on biomass for the next three years. The agency's statement that certain biomass 'such as waste materials whose inevitable decomposition will result in greenhouse gas emissions anyway' confirms what we at BPA have known all along: the use of wood waste materials and agricultural residues for biomass energy have a beneficial carbon impact and should be embraced as a renewable energy source.

"EPA's announcement today completely validates the important contribution our members make in fighting climate change through renewable energy generation,

and we will look forward to working with EPA to create a predictable, science-based approach to this issue.”

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.

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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.