

IP Does Not Oppose Federal Woody Biomass

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Sometimes rumors take on a life of their own. This was demonstrated in a recent article in *Timber Harvesting & Wood Fiber Operations* which alleged that IP is opposed to using biomass from federal lands for renewable energy, and furthermore, that IP worked behind the scenes with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to exclude biomass from federal lands in the definition of renewable biomass. The allegations in that article couldn't have been more incorrect, and we appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight with an audience that includes our respected suppliers, colleagues and long-time friends:

- IP supports including biomass from federal lands in the renewable biomass definition. In fact, IP has strongly advocated for a biomass definition that includes both private and public lands.
- IP has not been lobbying federal biomass issues in conjunction with the NRDC. Our support of a broad definition of biomass including both private and public forests is in direct conflict with NRDC's support for a narrow definition.
- IP supports woody biomass being developed under sustainable forest management practices. As the nation moves toward more energy from renewable sources, IP supports a broad biomass definition but also believes it's important to manage America's forests sustainably. We have suggested that any legislation creating demand for fiber must also consider if the total fiber demand placed on forests aligns with their ability to grow it. To keep America's forests healthy, it is also important that underutilized forests – both private and public – are managed to their full potential and allowed to contribute biomass to the growing demand for fiber.
- IP is concerned about unintended consequences from government policies promoting bioenergy and biofuels. The proposed government standard for renewable electricity, the cellulosic biofuel tax credit, and mandates in the Renewable Fuels Standard collectively have the potential to increase demand for wood fiber in some regions beyond the ability of the land to produce it. IP believes renewable energy targets should be based on sound science and periodically reviewed for modification. We also believe that government efforts to promote sustainability must respect landowner rights and not restrict their ability – or that of wood suppliers – to compete in all fiber markets.
- IP believes that the existing forest products industry and the economic benefit it provides to landowners, communities, suppliers and employees are important. As the government

establishes renewable energy incentives and mandates, there must be careful consideration for the consequences of those policies on existing industries. Unlike other renewable energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal), woody biomass is not only a source of energy, but an essential raw material for the forest products industry. Renewable energy policies that reduce our ability to compete fairly for raw materials and remain competitive in global markets can yield unintended consequences for landowners, communities, suppliers, and employees.

- IP believes renewable energy incentives and mandates must treat existing renewable power generation equally with newly created energy generation. IP produces more than 70% of the power needed for our U.S. mills through efficient combined heat and power plants that run on renewable biomass. IP did not push for incentives and mandates for new renewable energy to be created, but believes there must be a level playing field which doesn't have government picking winners and losers.

As we move into a new energy world, International Paper is doing its part to increase its energy efficiency and reduce fossil fuel use. We value the contributions from renewable biomass and understand that woody biomass will be an increasing part of our nation's renewable mix in the coming years. Striking the right balance will be important. IP is committed to working toward legislation with a broad biomass definition that includes biomass from public and private lands, addresses sustainable management of working forests, respects the rights of landowners and wood suppliers, and ensures that existing industries receive equal treatment and eligibility for renewable energy incentives and credits.

Finally, we want to thank Jim Petersen and the non-profit Evergreen Foundation for extending to us the opportunity to share our views directly with the visitors to evergreenmagazine.com