

December 11, 2012

Hon. Harry Reid
522 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. John Boehner
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Mitch McConnell
361A Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, understand that many of our colleagues in the environmental community have urged you to extend the Production Tax Credit ("PTC") in Section 45 of the Internal Revenue Code for wind and other renewable generation technologies. Although we strongly support policy efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and health-damaging air pollution from fossil fuels, we are concerned that the PTC includes support for biomass combustion technologies that both contribute to climate disruption and threaten public health.

Recent published, peer-reviewed science has shown that combustion of biomass, especially woody biomass sourced from forests, can increase carbon dioxide emissions relative to fossil fuels over a time span of decades to centuries. A large-scale shift to biomass generation could cause carbon pollution to increase at precisely the time scientists are telling us we need to make rapid and steep emissions reductions. Moreover, unlike other renewable generation technologies, biomass combustion produces air pollutants (including particulate matter and nitrogen oxides) that have well-known and adverse effects on public health.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to not extend the PTC for biomass generation as proposed in legislation passed by the Senate Finance Committee. In a time where we have extremely limited public resources available, we must support renewable generation technologies that reliably reduce greenhouse gas emissions without contributing to adverse public health effects.

We would be happy to provide information or discuss this further at your request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Arc-en-Ciel
Arise for Social Justice
Biofuelwatch
Biomass Accountability Project
Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Buckeye Forest Council
CACHE
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Community, Democracy and Ecology (CCDE)
Citizens Alliance for a Clean Health Economy
Citizens for a Safe Environment
Concerned Citizens of Russell
East Jefferson Biomass Committee, North Olympic Group, Sierra Club WA
Energy Justice Network
Friends of Bell Smith Springs
Friends of Robinson State Park
Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
Green Delaware
Green Party Oklahoma

Healthy Dubois County
Heartwod
Lin Schutz homeowner MPLS, MN
Market Air Quality Campaign
Massachusetts Forest Watch
Partnership for Policy Integrity
PC PRIDE
Port Townsend, WA Citizen Watchdogs
Protect All Children's Environment
Protect the Peninsula's Future
PT Airwatchers
SAMPLER (Southern Appalachian Media Project for Literacy on Environmental Renewal)
Save America's Forests
Save Our Rural Oregon
Save Our Sky Blue Waters
Schmid & Company, Inc.
Selkirk, Coeymans, Ravena against Pollution (SCRAP)
Stop Toxic Incineration in Springfield
The Enviro Show on WXOJ
Tom Neilson Music
Work on Waste, USA