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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

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State of Washington

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2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Orcutt, Rivers, Takko, Klippert, Angel, Johnson, Kretz, Kristiansen, Taylor, Haler, McCune, Short, Blake, Hinkle, Schmick, and Harris

Read first time 01/13/11. Referred to Committee on Environment.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE  
5 UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Biomass energy holds great potential for new markets in  
10 the forest products and energy sectors by creating demand and value for  
11 material derived from activities related to forest health and hazardous  
12 fuels reduction; and

13 WHEREAS, More than twenty-one million acres of Western forests have  
14 been killed by pine bark beetle, posing a safety threat to communities,  
15 the environment, local and regional economies, and the health of our  
16 forests; and

17 WHEREAS, Biomass utilization represents one of the most viable new  
18 means available to address this ecological crisis, while decreasing  
19 fossil fuel usage and stabilizing a depressed lumber and forest-product  
20 market; and

1       WHEREAS, When American Forest and Paper Association members use  
2 biomass to generate energy to run their mills, they prevent the use of  
3 the equivalent of more than 200 million barrels of oil annually; and

4       WHEREAS, Since 2006, the forest and paper industry has lost more  
5 than 190,000 jobs, or 15 percent of its workforce; and

6       WHEREAS, The forest products industry in Washington State accounted  
7 for over 11 percent, or over 41,000 jobs in 2008, of all in-state  
8 manufacturing jobs, which is especially significant in the rural,  
9 timber dependent communities where family wage jobs are difficult to  
10 come by; and

11       WHEREAS, Emissions from the combustion of biomass are not included  
12 in the department of energy's voluntary greenhouse gas emissions  
13 reporting programs, the environmental protection agency's greenhouse  
14 gas emissions reporting programs, the environmental protection agency's  
15 greenhouse gas reporting rule, or calculations of international bodies  
16 including the intergovernmental panel on climate change and the  
17 European Union; and

18       WHEREAS, The environmental protection agency's decision to include  
19 biomass combustion emissions under its Title V greenhouse gas tailoring  
20 rule contradicts federal precedent regarding the carbon neutrality of  
21 biomass combustion and will discourage the responsible development and  
22 utilization of renewable biomass;

23       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
24 administrator of the environmental protection agency exclude biomass  
25 combustion emissions in calculating greenhouse gas emissions and remove  
26 all rules relating to biomass combustion.

27       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
28 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
29 States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection  
30 Agency, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
31 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
32 Washington.

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