

POLICY ISSUE BRIEF



FOREST RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

WHY FRA SUPPORTS FOREST-BASED BIOMASS



BACKGROUND

Biomass carbon neutrality (net zero carbon emissions) is based on the principle that carbon released from biomass combustion is fully offset by working forests. These forests absorb CO₂, release oxygen, and store carbon in forest products. A mix of young, intermediate, and mature forests is essential for addressing climate change.

- Younger forests are more efficient at sequestering CO₂, while older forests store more carbon.
- As trees become over-mature, they release carbon into the atmosphere.
- Forest management produces biomass, driving rural economies.
- Biomass is used for heating and electricity.
- Due to sustainable forestry, the U.S. has more trees today than in 1952, with increasing carbon storage.
- The carbon neutrality of biomass from managed forests is widely recognized by studies, agencies, and international protocols.

WHY MORE CARBON NEUTRALITY MATTERS

- Biomass carbon neutrality underpins the forest products industry's sustainability claims.
- Regulatory uncertainty threatens forestry, forest products, and bioenergy sectors.
- Well-managed forests provide clean air, products, and bioenergy, with U.S. forestlands growing since 1952.
- U.S. carbon storage has increased annually over the last 30 years.

REQUESTS



Maintain the statutory directive requiring federal agencies to recognize biomass carbon neutrality in final FY 2025 appropriations.



Ensure the 2025 Farm Bill binds federal agencies to uphold biomass carbon neutrality in environmental and energy rulemaking.



FRA urges legislative support to extend the 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act provision directing the EPA, DOE, and USDA to recognize biomass carbon neutrality. Tied to appropriations, this provision risks expiring without reauthorization in FY 2025.

ABOUT FRA

The Forest Resources Association (FRA) is the only national organization representing all sectors of the wood supply chain. It advocates for its members on federal policy, supply chain relations, and forest operations. FRA members are represented in 49 states and 384 congressional districts.

For more information, please contact:

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