



American
Forest & Paper
Association
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Grow the VoteNews

A monthly grassroots newsletter from AF&PA



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*Your source for information
on the forest products industry*

August Recess is here and the Members of the United States House and Senate will be home in their district and state offices from August 9 – September 10. It's important that they hear from you while they're home. There are key issues coming up that will affect our industry jobs and we must let them know our views and how the decisions made in Washington, DC hit us back home.

EPA's Boiler MACT Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the Boiler MACT rule that includes emission limits for industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers using fossil fuels and biomass. Achievement of the limits established in this rule would require installation of up to four different air pollution control devices that will conflict with other existing control requirements and could impose tens of billions of dollars in unnecessary costs at thousands of manufacturing facilities across the country. The standards for new boilers are so stringent that boiler manufacturers cannot guarantee compliance.

The total capital costs for the forest products industry alone are estimated at about \$7 billion. This rule is putting the forest products industry and its jobs in jeopardy. Your representatives need to hear from the people that live and work in their districts and states – that's you! Contact them today and let them know how this rule will negatively impact your job and community.

What You Can Do:

Please send two letters. First, please send one to your Representatives urging them to contact EPA and to sign a letter to EPA administrator Lisa Jackson requesting more flexibility in the final Boiler MACT rule and second, please send one directly to EPA voicing your concerns with the Boiler MACT Rule. It's easy and simple to do – simply visit click on the links below, enter your name and address and hit send. 15 seconds can make all the difference.

[Click here to send a letter for your Congressional Members](#)

[Click here to send a letter directly to EPA](#)

In addition to your letter, please call their office(s) and voice your concerns over the Boiler MACT rule. Members of Congress will be back in their districts/states from August 9 - September 10. Please contact their district office and voice your concern over the Boiler MACT Rule.

- Click [Here](#) to look up your Representatives phone numbers.
- Click [Here](#) for talking points to use while making your contact.

EPA Tailoring Rule

EPA is implementing another rule called the Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule (Tailoring Rule) that would treat greenhouse gas emissions from biomass (plant material, vegetation, or agricultural waste used as a fuel or energy source) the same as emissions from fossil fuels (coal, petroleum, peat, and natural gas used as a fuel or energy source). The Tailoring Rule contradicts the country's objective of using renewable resources, such as biomass, to strengthen our domestic energy independence.

Since 2000, EPA has reported that the carbon stored in the nation's supply of wood fiber is positive and increasing, and the carbon stored in forests and forest products helps to offset 13 percent of the annual U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. This means that the biomass carbon cycle in the U.S. is removing carbon dioxide rather than emitting it into the atmosphere. Current U.S. domestic policy recognizes the carbon neutrality of carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of biomass. However, EPA is now considering whether to contradict this well-established fact and count emissions from biomass as if they were fossil fuel. The forest products industry meets 65% of its energy needs through biomass fuel. A failure by EPA to recognize the carbon neutrality of biomass would significantly increase compliance costs and disrupt national climate and renewable energy strategies, resulting in harmful environmental and economic impacts.

Reversing the long-standing principle of carbon neutrality of biomass is not the correct policy. Doing so would eliminate the fundamental principle underlying biomass' favorable consideration as an energy source, which could scare away industries just as they are poised to commit to major investments in emerging technologies. This would only drive jobs away from the U.S. and toward jurisdictions that recognize biomass carbon neutrality.

What You Can Do:

When making your calls and conducting meetings with your Congressional Members on Boiler MACT over the August recess (August 9 – September 10), please also talk to them about biomass and the benefits of it as a renewable energy source. President Obama wants to provide incentives for the country to use renewable sources for energy, and if EPA rules that biomass is not carbon neutral, it would remove a sustainable resource from the equation.

To help with your contacts, please visit www.growthevote.org. Here you will find information on the carbon neutrality of biomass.

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