



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 19, 2006

The Honorable Eliot Spitzer  
New York State Governor-Elect  
330 Madison Avenue, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10017-5001

Dear Governor-Elect Spitzer:

We are writing to express our strong support for the full inclusion of New York State woody biomass resources as a key component of your Administration's comprehensive energy policy. Wood from the forest and from farmed woody biomass energy crops offers a significant renewable alternative to New York State's imported and diminishing fossil-based energy supplies. This energy can be harvested in a sustainable way and released as thermal energy, transportation fuels and electricity. Inclusion of New York State woody biomass in your energy policy will sustain renewable energy, the environment and improve New York State's economic vitality.

Although the New York State forest products industry alone adds more than \$7.7 billion to the state's economy each year and provides 60,000 jobs, it is still an industry in decline. Existing scientific research from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), and others including the United States Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) clearly maintains that woody biomass resources have distinct technical, economic, and environmental advantages. Every research study and forecast over the past decade demonstrates the value that woody biomass can return on New York State forest and farm community investments, thus helping to sustain rural communities and the associated quality of life.

Projects such as the Biorefineries in New York State have garnered significant federal support from the United States Congress through the Departments of Agriculture and Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency because they enable an array of innovative, clean, and renewable woody biomass technologies. These technologies not only help design a more sustainable future, but also help reduce New York State's and the nation's dependency on foreign sources of energy. Clearly, a worthy objective for every American.

Efforts such as Catalyst Renewables Corporation's Lyonsdale Biomass Facility in Lewis County and Laidlaw Energy Group's Ellicottville Biomass Project are seeking to use sustainable and renewable thermal energy and electricity to create economic vitality for the New York State

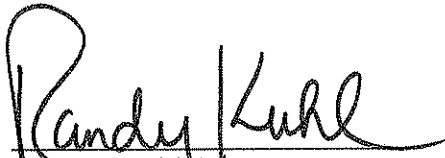
forest products industry. As biomass is locally owned and produced, such efforts will also help reverse the job loss and economic decline in the regional farm and forest communities-- keeping dollars in New York State and in the local economy.


For example, Lyonsdale Biomass is a wood-burning energy plant in the Tug Hill region of Lewis County. Catalyst Renewables Corporation, one of the owners of Lyonsdale Biomass, is planting 60 acres of shrub willow biomass energy crops as part of its effort to expand commercial use of this energy source by regional farmers and landowners. This will establish the first commercial shrub willow energy crop plantation in North America.


Laidlaw Energy & Environmental is also an exciting project in Upstate New York. They have committed to strengthening the local economic fabric in Ellicottville, New York, where their re-powered renewable facility will directly put 25 local men and women back to work and will also help local truckers and forest product industry workers earn their livings. Laidlaw Energy & Environmental will also generate year-round annual tax revenues in support of the local government and public schools.

We strongly encourage you to give your utmost attention to the inclusion of sustainable and renewable woody biomass from New York State's forests and farms in your New York State energy policy.

Sincerely,

  
John R. Kuhl Jr.

  
John M. McHugh

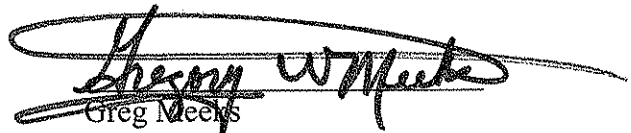
  
Charles E. Schumer

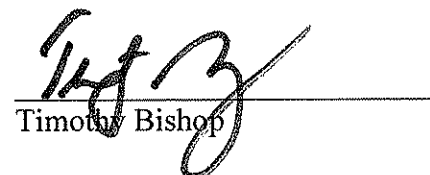
  
Brian Higgins

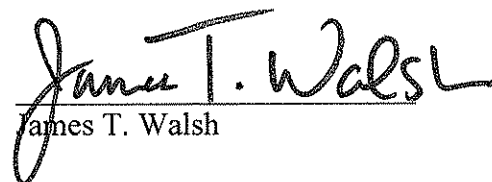
  
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