

January 20, 2010

Dr. Kristina M. Johnson
Under Secretary for Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Under Secretary Johnson,

One of our Directors was recently involved in a Biopower Technical Strategy Workshop in Denver. At this workshop, several government employees publicly acknowledged the benefits of biomass thermal energy as a key component in addressing our country's energy crisis. To date, the Department of Energy has not included thermal energy in its recommendations to Congress.

Based on the research and findings of DOE and EPA, we recommend pursuing a biomass strategy that optimizes the use of this renewable, but limited, resource. The best use of biomass would achieve the goals of lowering GHG emissions, curbing fossil fuel consumption, and producing energy as efficiently as possible.

Producing thermal energy from biomass is a far more efficient use of resources than generating electricity or liquid fuel from that same biomass. Superior process efficiencies in the production of energy make biomass better suited for thermal energy generation. While using biomass to generate electricity is certainly better than using coal, the limited biomass resources should be applied where they can have the biggest impact in the most efficient manner possible.

Biomass thermal energy recommendations would address a critical portion of our national energy consumption. Thermal energy consumption accounts for over one-third of the total energy consumed in the U.S.

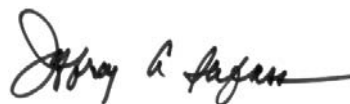
We are confident that for the best direction of the agency, the country and our resources it is vital to consider the best solutions for our finite biomass resources. By focusing on thermal biomass energy, the current policy could radically improve the U.S. energy consumption picture.

BTEC would welcome the opportunity to speak with you and your staff to further discuss alternative options to capitalize on the benefits of biomass to achieve our energy goals.

Sincerely,

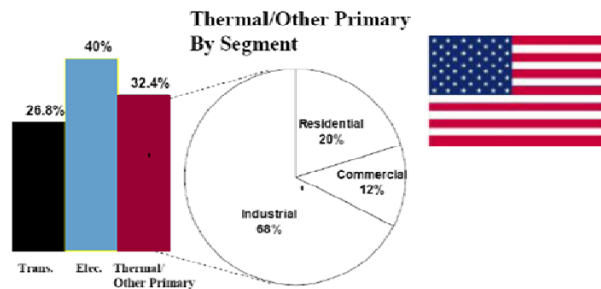


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US Primary Energy Consumption



Sourced: US Energy Information Administration

Cc: John Ferrell, U.S. Department of Energy