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February 9, 2011

Mr. William Daley
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Daley:

RE: The Environmental Protection Agency's Boiler MACT emissions rule promulgation for Area Source boilers

Through its pending boiler emissions rule, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking action that threatens to dramatically curtail job creation, innovation, and growth in a vital sector of our economy: renewable energy from biomass. The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) and its members would like your assistance in communicating to the EPA the dangers inherent in imposing impractical and unrealistic emissions limits through its forthcoming boiler MACT regulations. Timing for this action is critical. EPA is under court order to publish the boiler MACT rule by February 21, 2011.

The Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC) is committed to advancing the use of biomass for highly efficient heating, cooling, and combined heat and power applications. We aim to utilize one of America's most abundant renewable resources—biomass—to displace fossil fuel-based sources of thermal energy. Our membership spans over 30 states and includes landowners, fuel producers, equipment manufacturers, and many others who are deeply concerned by the EPA's planned actions in regards to biomass boilers.

This is not the first time the EPA has received criticism over this pending rule. In 2010, our organization was one of the reported 4,800 entities that registered concerns during the EPA's Boiler MACT public comment period. Then, like now, we called on the EPA to revise the emissions rules to reflect a common-sense approach based on real-world boiler performance. This middle-of-the-road strategy would allow the EPA to achieve major improvements in air quality while advancing the essential environmental, economic, and social benefits of renewable energy from biomass. Members of Congress—from both parties—have also shared with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson a desire for more practical emissions limits.

We will need every tool in the toolbox for America to reach President Obama's target of 80% clean energy by 2035. Well-crafted emissions regulations can help ensure that boilers fueled by biomass continue to make a significant contribution to our nation's renewable energy goals. The pending boiler MACT rule will impede this progress unless it is rooted in real-world performance standards. Your voice could assist the EPA in formatting a final rule by February 21 that not only improves air quality but also preserves jobs and promotes growth in the renewable energy sector.

Biomass thermal energy must be a key element in our energy future. We would be happy to meet at your convenience to discuss our concerns with the EPA boiler MACT rule.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Gibeault".

Kyle Gibeault
Executive Director
Biomass Thermal Energy Council



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CC: Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Ron Bloom, Assistant to the President for Manufacturing Policy, National Economic Council
Cecilia Muñoz, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director for Intergovernmental Affairs
Evan Ryan, Assistant for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison for Vice President
Bruce Reed, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President
David Lane, Assistant to the President and Counselor to the Chief of Staff
Gene Sperling, Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and Director, National Economic Council Administrator
Cass Sunstein, Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs