

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 7, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
United States House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-107
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer,

We write today ahead of conference negotiations on appropriations bills to express our support for provisions related to biomass energy that support healthy forest management and the forest products industry. We recognize the tremendous economic and environmental benefit that the forest economy represents nationwide. To this end, we urge you to include the Senate provision (Sec. 427) contained in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (S. 2580) in the final negotiated package.

Federal policies across all departments and agencies should remove any uncertainties and contradictions through a clear message that forest bioenergy is part of the nation's energy future. This policy uncertainty jeopardizes existing investments in biomass and discourages new investments to build or upgrade facilities. It also has the potential to put U.S. products at a competitive disadvantage to those of other countries that recognize carbon neutral biomass energy.

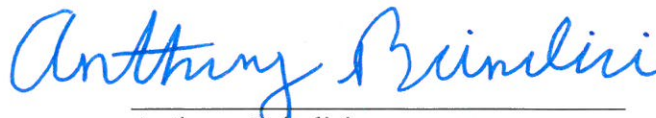
Biomass energy is a sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant energy source that can help us meet our alternative energy goals. Furthermore, research shows a correlation between healthy markets for forests and private investment to grow more timber. The natural carbon cycle, which includes carbon sequestration, is essential to meeting our environmental goals. Our constituents employed in the biomass supply chain deserve a federal policy that recognizes the clear benefits of forest bioenergy.

We thank you for representing the House Democratic Caucus in conference negotiations and appreciate your support on this issue.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Anthony Brindisi
Member of Congress



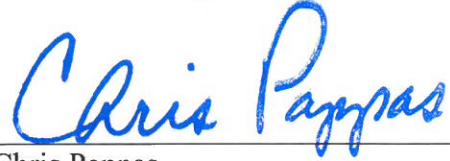
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



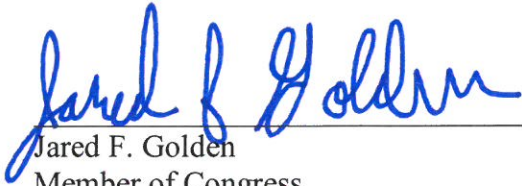
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



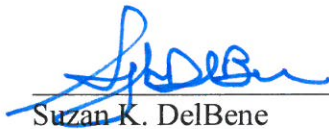
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



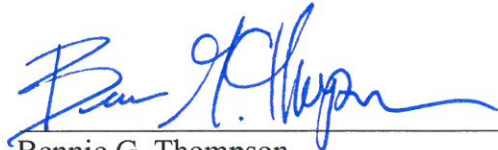
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress




J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

CC

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
The Honorable Betty McCollum