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Established in 1920, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is a non-profit organization composed of the directors of forestry agencies in the states, territories and the District of Columbia of the United States.

State foresters manage and protect state and private forests, which encompass two-thirds of the nation's forests. State forestry agencies in cooperation with federal agencies are the primary delivery system for forestry activities.

NASF views forests as a strategic national resource of vital importance to meeting the nation's economic, environmental, and energy needs. Biomass from the nation's public and private forests can and must be part of any solution to meeting the nation's renewable energy goals, particularly in regions where solar, wind, and other renewable resources are less prevalent.

In September of 2018, NASF adopted a new policy resolution in support of emerging wood markets, including biomass, which are critical to the active management of our nation's forest resources. This policy resolution has been included with this letter as an attachment.

Biomass sources, including biomass from publicly and privately owned and managed forests are considered by states and the Federal government to be renewable energy. Biomass harvested from sustainably managed forests has been recognized as beneficial for atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations by many organizations and governments throughout the world. It is also critical for forest landowners to have markets for their wood fiber to ensure forests can be managed and retained as forests. Markets for biomass can also help reduce the severity of wildfires and provide an economical means for landowners to restore their forestlands following other natural disasters like Hurricanes Florence and Michael which have caused billions of dollars of damage to forestlands.

Executive Director
Jay Farrell

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ASHRAE 189.1 -2017 should include biomass as a qualifying energy source. Biomass should be broadly defined to include (but not limited to) logging residues, residues from forest or manufacturing operations, byproducts of fuels reduction and forest health and restoration treatments, clean construction debris, urban wood waste, byproducts of land clearing (e.g., for utility rights-of-ways, roads) and debris from landscaping firms.

Lisa Allen
NASF President
Missouri State Forester

Attachment: Emerging Markets for Wood and Their Positive Impact on Forest Resource Management

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