



Biomass Carbon Neutrality

Background

The Hardwood Federation has fought hard for years, alongside our association partners in the forestry and forest products sectors, to enact legislation recognizing the carbon neutrality of the biomass energy used in our mills. In 2017 a provision was enacted directing U.S. federal agencies to do so. This was a considerable victory as it not only buttressed the concept that biomass combustion produces no net carbon contribution to the atmosphere, but also reaffirmed the renewability of the forest resource. However, both the carbon neutral and renewable aspects of biomass have continued to come under increasing attack from environmentalists.

Issue

While the 2017 victory was positive, we have more work to do. Because the carbon neutrality provision was enacted as part of an omnibus spending bill, there is concern that the policy will lapse. So far the industry has been able to extend the provision through the appropriations process on a year to year basis. Our goal is to include language in the FY 2020 appropriations legislation that will make this provision permanent.

The Hardwood Federation Position

The Hardwood Federation supports legislative language that will make the biomass carbon neutrality directive permanent.