



PPRC Position Paper on Energy

Current energy problems are complex and they require immediate attention in order to avert the loss of thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs. In addition, we must secure a commitment to improve the global environment.

The PPRC recommends that Congress develop a long-term national strategy that includes the following:

- upgrading and expansion of the nation's electrical transmission infrastructure in order to bring it into the 21st century
 - improving energy efficiency
 - access to a balanced mix of fuels to include, biomass, wind generation and U.S natural gas reserves
 - streamlining of the regulatory permitting processes for beneficial projects
 - expansion of nuclear energy generating facilities
 - improvement of existing hydroelectric facilities and construction of new facilities
 - construction of new refineries and re-opening existing facilities
 - investment in the development of cleaner and more energy-efficient technology for existing domestic energy sources: i.e. coal, other fossil fuels and agricultural crops
- Biomass fuels burn carbon neutral and should be listed as a source of green energy and "environmentally preferred" and be accorded incentives to promote wider use (e.g., tax incentives, research and development funding and expedited permitting processes).
 - Due to the limited access to biomass, future energy strategies should include increased availability of biomass for generating power to prevent continued job loss in the pulp and paper industry.
 - Due to climate change concerns, we must make the best use of our sustainable resources to find long-term solutions. The paper industry's main raw material is biomass (wood chips, sawdust, recycled materials, etc.) which can be optimized in the pulping and papermaking process by generating green energy. This power generated can be added to the grid to provide energy for thousands of homes and businesses.
 - The use of biomass, fossil fuels and electricity for energy is necessary for our industry. The PPRC is seeking common sense solutions to the rapidly escalating costs. We ask Congress to support the simplification of environmental regulations which adversely affect energy costs by restricting the removal of wood, mining of coal and the drilling for fossil fuels.

- The uncertainty of energy supplies, regulations and prices makes it impossible for all industries to efficiently forecast operating costs or make credible plans for future capital expenditures.
- The PPRC supports increased environmentally responsible exploration and production of new sources of fuels within the United States in order to sustain industry, lower energy costs, increase supply and relieve American reliance on imported fuels. This would include the increased access to oil and gas reserves within the United States and the development of and expedited permitting for liquefied natural gas facilities.
- The Forest Products Industry currently generates on-site power fueled by biomass, thereby using renewable natural resources, reducing dependence on fossil fuels and contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We support the construction of additional on-site energy generating facilities that are environmentally preferred and seek the streamlining of the permitting processes for this construction.
- There are few incentives for industry to install new energy-efficient equipment until faced with penalties. The PPRC seeks common sense regulations based on incentives rather than penalty avoidance.
- Biomass fuels should include bark, scrap wood, wood residuals and wood extractives from the pulping process instead of some of this waste being diverted to landfills.
- It is necessary to maintain a manufacturing base in this country in order to **sustain jobs and a thriving economy.** Energy plays the most vital role in this equation.

The PPRC is a grassroots organization representing the interests of the nation's pulp, paper, solid wood products, and other natural resource-based workers. The U.S. forest products industry is vitally important to our nation's economy, employing 1.5 million people. We rank among the top 10 manufacturers in 42 states with annual sales exceeding \$230 billion, which accounts for 7 % of the U.S. manufacturing shipments. We are people dedicated to conserving the environment while taking into account the economic stability of the workforce and surrounding community.

Rev. 01/30/09