

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Atkinson, Bates, Beyer, Prozanski, Avakian
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Sue Marshall, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Congress to pass legislation to allow the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to enter into 15-year contracts for the removal of biomass from federal forests in Oregon in order to provide fuel for cogeneration plants.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Land management practices in state and federal forests
- Employment opportunities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: According to the Department of Forestry, the term “biomass” refers to woody materials that do not have commercial value, such as trees with a diameter of less than six inches and the tops of larger trees. Governor Kulongoski adopted the Renewable Energy Action Plan in 2005, which recommended the increased use of forest biomass as a source of energy. In a 2007 report, the Department of Forestry’s Biomass Work Group concluded that the lack of a predictable supply of biomass has proved to be a major obstacle in attracting private investment in biomass energy facilities.