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Northern Arizona Council of G



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KENNETH J. SWEET
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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March 10, 2004

The Honorable Marc Spitzer and Members of the Corporation Commission
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Environmental Portfolio Standard
Docket No. RE-00000C-00-0377

Re: Support for Biomass Energy Production

Dear Chairman Spitzer:

Recently, the Regional Council of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) discussed the issue of biomass energy production in Arizona, with particular emphasis placed on the compatibility of biomass energy plants in northern Arizona relative to fuel reduction programs across the region. Considering the significant availability of biomass resources created by fuel reduction programs, NACOG is fully supportive of the Commission's efforts to promote additional biomass energy production in Arizona. Accordingly, on February 26, 2004 NACOG's Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 04-04 in support of biomass energy. A copy of the resolution is enclosed.

If you have any questions concerning this resolution, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Sweet
Executive Director

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

MAR 19 2004

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Enclosure

c: Matt Ryan, Coconino County Board of Supervisors

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Resolution No. 04-04

***A RESOLUTION OF THE
Northern Arizona Council of Governments***

**IN SUPPORT FOR BIOMASS ENERGY
FOR THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION**

The Arizona Corporation Commission has requested that interested entities show support for biomass energy plants, the adoption of an indefinite extension of the Arizona Environmental Portfolio Standards (EPS) beyond the current sunset date of 2012, and the development of rules and regulations necessary to advance the framework for a biomass energy industry in the State of Arizona.

WHEREAS, the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, hereinafter referred to as "NACOG," recognizes the poor health of the region's forests, as evidenced by the probability of catastrophic wildfire; and

WHEREAS, NACOG and the region's forests are in the midst of a continuing drought and on-going insect epidemic; and

WHEREAS, NACOG understands community values-at-risk include homes and infrastructure, public health and peace-of-mind, safety of citizens, residents, and firefighters, business and financial interests, recreational opportunities, watershed values, scenic quality, emotional/spiritual attachments, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, a healthy forest is critical to the health of the region; and

WHEREAS, renewable energy is both a practical and achievable goal; and

WHEREAS, NACOG wishes to act in concert with others throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this resolution demonstrates leadership, focuses attention on the problem, promotes efforts to address the issue, and supports the on-going efforts of both NACOG and other partners to resolve this problem.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Council of the Northern Arizona Council of Governments urges the Arizona Corporation Commission to:

1. Support the effort to provide for a portion of Arizona's renewable energy to come from biomass (wood and wood waste products) energy;

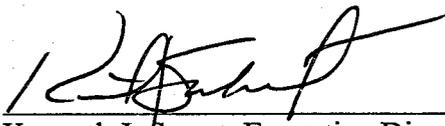
2. Extend the Arizona Environmental Portfolio Standard (EPS) beyond the current sunset date of 2012;
3. Consider expansion of the renewable energy requirement above the current standard;
and
4. Develop other rules and regulations necessary to advance the framework for a biomass energy industry in the State of Arizona.

Passed and adopted this 26th day of February 2004.



Mayor James Boles, Chairman
NACOG Regional Council

Attest:



Kenneth J. Sweet, Executive Director
NACOG Regional Council