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Memorandum
From the office of
Commissioner Boyd Dunn
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. WASHINGTON
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
(602) 542-3935

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

MAY 15 2017

DOCKETED BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Dunn".

TO: Docket Control
DATE: May 15, 2017
FROM: Commissioner Dunn's Office
SUBJECT: Arizona Corporation Commission Docket E-00000Q-17-0138

Please open a new generic docket. The title of this new docket should be:

Commissioner Dunn's Inquiry into the Role of Forest Bioenergy in Arizona

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Boyd Dunn
Commissioner
Direct Line: (602) 542-3935
E-mail: dunn-web@azcc.gov

**ARIZONA CORPORATION
COMMISSION**

May 15, 2017

Re: Commissioner Dunn's Inquiry into the Role of Forest Bioenergy in Arizona.

Dear Commissioners and Other Interested Parties:

I would like to explore the unique role that forest bioenergy plays in Arizona and its impact on our State. Forest bioenergy serves an important role in maintaining Arizona's forests, woodlands, and watersheds. These systems utilize woody biomass generated from public lands and other land ownerships to create energy for the grid.

Our history is riddled with examples of the devastating economic, cultural, and ecological impact of Arizona wildfires.

In addition, State watersheds, including streams, lakes and reservoirs are at risk of contamination from hazardous runoff coming from the burned areas. Maintaining healthy forests and woodlands through on-the-ground restoration activities reduces the risk and severity of these wildfires.

The importance of this energy source has also been recognized at the federal level. The 2017 spending bill directs the U.S. Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency to develop clear, consistent and simple federal policies relating to forest bioenergy that "recognize[] the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management," "reflect the carbon-neutrality of forest bioenergy," "recognize biomass as a renewable energy source," "encourage private investment throughout the forest biomass supply chain," "encourage forest management to improve forest health," and "recognize [s]tate initiatives to produce and use forest biomass." Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017, H.R. 244, Pub. Law 115-31, 115th Cong. § 428 (2017). These efforts should be mirrored in Arizona.

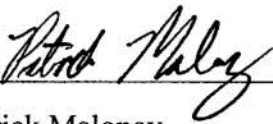
I opened this docket to explore market development opportunities and commercially viable forest bioenergy options here in Arizona. I plan to hold a workshop to explore the issue more fully. I hope to elicit feedback from our fellow commissioners and other interested stakeholders as we proceed with our examination of this issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd W. Dunn".

Boyd W. Dunn: Commissioner & Chairman of the Federal Affairs Committee

Certification of Service

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By:  _____

Patrick Maloney

Assistant to Boyd W. Dunn

Andy Kvesic

ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION Director- Legal Division

1200 West Washington

Phoenix Arizona 85007

LegalDiv@azcc.gov

Elijah Abinah

Arizona Corporation Commission Director- Utilities Division

1200 West Washington

Phoenix Arizona 85007

EAbinah@azcc.gov