

## **Resolution on the Importance of Biomass Energy in Wisconsin's Energy Portfolio**

Whereas, biomass is defined as an organic and plant matter that can be converted to fuel and is therefore regarded as a potential energy source.

Whereas, biomass energy is an underutilized energy source in the State of Wisconsin that can fill a vital role in cutting the state's carbon dioxide and heavy metal output, diversify Wisconsin's energy portfolio, increase our states energy security as well as promote local development and use of readily available natural resources;

Whereas, climate change, fossil fuel extraction and combustion serves as a threat to the environment including fish and wildlife.

Whereas, through the use of biomass energy, the state can reduce carbon dioxide and heavy metals such as mercury.

Whereas, by implementing biomass energy into the state energy portfolio, Wisconsin can also be on track to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

Whereas, Wisconsin's energy portfolio is currently heavily comprised of coal imported from Wyoming and being dependent on outside energy sources leaves the state susceptible to energy price spikes and energy shortages during vital times of the year such as winter;

Whereas, the average Wisconsin household uses 15% more energy than the national average, which is mainly due to Wisconsin's cold climate and biomass can aide the state by providing heating capacity for the energy intensive winters;

Whereas, using state resources such as biomass for energy will allow for greater development of locally sourced jobs and infrastructure benefitting Wisconsin's economy and citizens;

Whereas there is a great amount of biomass material that is simply disposed in landfills and other waste sites that can be converted to a local, clean and reliable energy source;

Whereas, extracting biomass energy from our forests will need to be complimented with sustainable forestry practices to ensure there are proper levels of residuals left on the forest floor for wildlife habitat and soil replenishment;

Whereas, there are educational resources such as the Environmental Protection Agency Stove Certification Program and the US Forest Service Directed Wisconsin State Wood Energy Team that can assist with implementing biomass energy use in the state;

Whereas, these organizations will consult and inform Wisconsin companies and citizens on proper use and procedures for using biomass energy;

Whereas, at citizens' disposal are funding and grant opportunities to implement biomass energy projects such as the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) and the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP);

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting assembled April 8-9, 2016 in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, urges the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, the US Forest Service and the Wisconsin State Energy Office to recognize the important role of biomass energy in the state and implement mechanisms for incorporating biomass energy into Wisconsin's energy portfolio.

Submitted by the Wisconsin Conservation Leadership Corps

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