

Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council

(MoFRAC)
www.confedmo.org/

Dear Sen. Brad Lager and Rep. Jason Holsman:

The Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council (MoFRAC, www.mofrac.org), with a membership of 30+ organizations, serves as a sounding board or in an advisory capacity to agencies and organizations regarding planning, operations, programs, policies, or legislation affecting forestry.

The forestry community believes that special consideration must be given to the use of woody biomass from Missouri forests (as distinct from mill residues and construction waste) to produce energy. For this to constitute a *renewable* resource, some criteria must be applied to ensure sustainable harvests with acceptable environmental impact.

Accordingly, MoFRAC adopted the following resolution on March 16th, 2009:

"Resolved that it is MoFRAC's position that any entity receiving any type of economic assistance from the State of Missouri for the growth, harvest, processing or utilization of woody biomass be obligated to: 1) use a professional forester to develop a forest management plan and a forest harvest plan as defined in SB 931, 2008, and associated administrative rules; and, 2) adhere to the Woody Biomass Harvest and Best Management Practices in their entirety, as promulgated by the Missouri Department of Conservation. It is further the position of MoFRAC that commercial entities utilizing or processing woody biomass in excess of 5,200 green tons per year, excluding sawmill residues and urban wood wastes, should create or adopt a third-party audit process with sufficient sampling intensity to ensure adherence to said Best Management Practices."

Subsequent to this resolution, a Master Logger Certification program was implemented by the Missouri Forest Products Association (<http://www.moforest.org/education/masterlogger.html>) in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation. MoFRAC strongly supports the use of Certified Master Loggers to harvest woody biomass.

To lay the groundwork for resolving bioenergy issues, MoFRAC sponsored a conference, "Challenges of Producing Energy from Woody Biomass", at The Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City on October 22, 2010. The presentations and related material have been archived online at <http://mofrac.org/BiomassConference.aspx>.

We greatly appreciate your efforts to formulate a renewable energy standard in Missouri. We hope that you will incorporate language in your respective bills (SB 422 and HB 613) to address the above noted concerns. We would be pleased to work with you and your fellow legislators on this and related matters.

Sincerely,



Wayne Lovelace, Chair
Missouri Forest Resources Advisory Council

- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Missouri Department of Agriculture
- Department of Economic Development
- University of Missouri School of Natural Resources
- USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Conservation Federation of Missouri
- Missouri Farm Bureau
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service PPQ
- Missouri Forest Products Association
- Association of Consulting Foresters of America
- Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service
- LAD Foundation
- University of Missouri Extension Forestry
- Missouri Forest Alliance
- University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry
- Walnut Council
- Missouri Community Forestry Council
- Missouri Society of American Foresters
- Fort Leonard Wood Forestry
- Tree Farm Committee
- The Nature Conservancy
- Missouri Chapter Sierra Club
- Missouri Consulting Foresters Association
- Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Missouri Landscape & Nursery Association
- Top of the Ozarks, RC&D
- Mark Twain National Forest