



**RESOLUTION 2019-01**  
**ADVANCING A DETERMINATION OF CARBON NEUTRALITY FOR**  
**FOREST-BASED BIOMASS ENERGY FROM SUSTAINABLY MANAGED**  
**FORESTED TRUST LANDS**

**Whereas**, the Western States Land Commissioners Association (“WSLCA”) and its member states manage over 515 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways; and

**Whereas**, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

**Whereas**, WSLCA member states with forested lands fulfill their constitutional mandates through the sustainable management of forest resources, which includes the marketing, sale and use of forest biomass residuals as a sustainable renewable energy source; and

**Whereas**, prior to 2010 the U.S. recognized forest-based biomass residual energy as being carbon neutral yet no such “carbon neutral” designation was made when the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Tailoring Rule was promulgated thereby subjecting biomass energy at stationary sources to Clean Air Act permit requirements; and

**Whereas**, since 2010 the EPA has found numerous positive benefits from forest biomass use recognizing greenhouse gas reduction benefits of bioenergy from forest product mill residuals and byproducts; and

**Whereas**, the U.S. Congress adopted legislation in May 2017, March 2018 and February 2019 directing EPA, Forest Service and Dept. of Energy to establish clear and simple policies reflecting the carbon neutrality of forest-derived bioenergy; and

**Whereas**, the use of forest-based biomass for energy production offers enormous greenhouse gas benefits by avoiding the discharge of millions of metric tons of carbon dioxide; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The WSLCA urges the U.S. Congress to expand renewable energy source opportunities and goals by establishing a public policy reflecting the carbon neutrality of forest-based biomass; and,
2. The WSLCA urges the U.S. Congress to acknowledge that producing energy from forest-based biomass avoids and reduces greenhouse gas emissions and promotes the efficient use of domestic natural resources; and,
3. The WSLCA urges the U.S. Congress to include language in the FY2020 Farm Bill directing EPA, Forest Service and Dept. of Energy to create a policy that reflects the carbon neutrality of biomass energy.

Adopted this 31st day of July, 2019.



President, WSLCA



Secretary, WSLCA

*This Resolution will remain in effect through July 31, 2021  
unless otherwise terminated, amended, or replaced by the Association.*