



# ***Eastern Ozarks Forestry Council***

*Revitalizing Communities through Forestry*

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## **GUIDELINES FOR MISSOURI LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT BIO-ENERGY FROM WOOD**

- Biomass harvest for bio-energy or any other purpose must be done sustainably
  - Don't create new problems!
  - Adapt the outstanding Pioneer Forest model, or its equivalent, to supply both biomass and saw timber with acceptable environmental impact
  - Adopt biomass harvest BMPs (Best Management Practices), currently being developed by MDC in a stakeholder-guided process
  - Plan harvests using a professional forester
  - Verify with a third-party audit
- Write legislation with broad stakeholder input
  - MoFRAC can provide guidance on forestry issues
  - Avoid unintended consequences
  - Choose public over special interests
  - DNR's Wood Energy Tax Credit was supposed to facilitate creation of new wood processing industries, but it just subsidizes a traditional industry at a cost of \$3.3 million annually
- Condition public subsidy, including tax credits, on
  - recipient meeting above criteria for sustainability
  - profitability; i.e., adopt counter-cyclical payments
  - outcome—both reduction of fossil fuel inputs and production of renewable energy with minimal adverse environmental impact
  - implementation of promising new technology, not use of designated feedstock
  - avoiding negative impact on other market sectors; e.g., as corn ethanol has affected livestock operations
- Favor projects owned at least partly by those who provide the feedstock
  - Producers (timber growers) will be more concerned about sustainability than plant manager who must acquire feedstock as cheaply as possible to satisfy obligation to non-producer shareholders
  - Sharing in value-added profits more efficiently promotes economic development than trickle-down effects of local employment and purchasing
- EOFC would be pleased to assist implementation of these guidelines
  - Extensive research on bio-energy technologies
  - Persistent advocator and facilitator of sustainable forestry on public and private lands
  - Contact Kurt Homeyer, Chair, ([khomeyer@tnc.org](mailto:khomeyer@tnc.org), 573-323-8790) or
  - Peter Becker, Research Coordinator ([wongbeck@yahoo.com](mailto:wongbeck@yahoo.com), 573-689-2121)