

SC Biomass Council Legislative Committee Activity Report July 20, 2010

The SC Biomass Legislative Committee met on May 18, 2010 by conference call. The meeting objectives included:

1. **Legislative Profile Development and Ratification:** Determination of process for development and ratification of a legislative profile representative of the organization.
2. **Key Technology Areas:** Identify key technology or policy areas for the development of the legislative profile.
3. **Guidelines for State, Federal Agency and Congressional Interaction:** Determine process for interaction and endorsement of organizational objectives or proposed legislation.
4. **Schedule:** Determine the schedule for review and development of the legislative profile.
5. **SC Biomass Endorsements:** Establish policy for statements of endorsement by the SC Biomass Council.

A legislative profile is defined as a position paper or document that reflects the legislative and policy preferences of the SC Biomass Council and may include information and opinion on state or federal legislation that may impact emerging biomass energy research, development, recruitment and commercialization in South Carolina. The document may include recommendations for new state legislation.

Legislative Profile Development and Ratification

1. **Organization Input:** The Legislative Committee shall seek input and concepts for current and new proposed legislation from the general membership annually from June 1 until August 15 of each calendar year.
2. **Committee Develops Profile:** The Legislative Committee shall prepare a draft legislative profile for posting on the web site not later than August 31 of each year. Members are requested to provide written comments of endorsement or challenge up to one week prior to the fall meeting. The legislative committee shall consider the input and development a modified draft which will be again posted on the web site.
3. **Membership Request for Endorsement:** At the fall meeting a brief presentation of the legislative profile shall be presented to the attending membership for general comment. Comments shall not exceed ten minutes.
4. **General Membership Vote:** The legislative shall be deemed accepted if a simple majority of attending members votes to support the draft legislative profile. In the event a simple majority is not reached or at the sole discretion of the Legislative Committee, the vote on the approval of

the legislative profile may be suspended allowing the restatement of provisions within the legislative profile. In the event the document is changed, the revised draft will be posted on the web site within three days of the meeting. An electronic vote will be conducted on the next Tuesday for a term of two days closing at 5 PM on the second day. Membership votes shall be determined by emails sent to a selected email address. Each member is allowed one vote.

Key Technology or Policy Areas

Four primary areas were identified for the 2010-2011 legislative calendars. The primary function of the legislative profile shall pertain to development of policy within South Carolina.

- 1. Feedstock Improvement and Enhancement:** Legislative profile shall address policy and concepts that advance the development of biofuel feedstocks including but not limited to renewable energy crops, woody biomass resources, surplus oil conversion, co-products, novel blended or hybrid fuels or other potential biomass feedstocks. This development shall include concepts that enhance the development of small and medium companies and the recruitment of established energy companies to South Carolina.
- 2. Biofuel Research, Development and Commercialization:** The SC Biomass shall continue to support policy that advances the research, development and commercialization of biomass technologies which include but not limited to biofuels.
- 3. Biomass to Energy:** The SC Biomass Council shall continue support policy that advances the research, development and commercialization of biomass technologies which include but not limited to biomass to energy technologies. Technologies may include pellets, pulverized cellulose, pyrolysis, syngas, charcoal or other related.
- 4. Public/Private Research and Development Activities:** The SC Biomass Council will continue to develop policy and legislative concepts that support the public and private development of bioenergy research in the primary target areas identified including biofuels, biomass to energy and feedstock improvement.

Guidelines for State, Federal Agency and Congressional Interaction on behalf of the SC Biomass Council

State of South Carolina

SC Biomass shall develop and support SC legislation pertaining to advancing the biomass industry through white papers, endorsements and informational suggestions for new or existing legislation. All paid lobby efforts shall be conducted in organizations outside of the SC Biomass Council.

In 2010-2011 the Biomass Council shall solicit the participation of state and federal legislators, or their staff, in the regular meetings. Further, the SC Biomass Council shall post the legislative profile and direct state and federal legislators to the web site for policy development. The SC Biomass Legislative Committee shall offer and respond to informational requests, within available resources, by state and federal legislators.

Federal Agencies and the South Carolina US Congressional Delegation

Federal lobby is currently deemed outside of the scope of the SC Biomass Legislation due to financial limitations. All federal legislative or agency representatives shall be directed to the web site for information on the platform or profile of the organization. Member direct contact with the SC delegation in Washington is encouraged. However, presentation of an endorsement for existing or proposed legislation shall be only with the written approval of the SC Biomass Legislative Committee.

Schedule

The development of the profile shall be conducted in accord with the following schedule:

1. Legislative Committee call for input June 1.
2. July preliminary meeting of Legislative Committee to consider submitted concepts.
3. August 15 Close of member submissions.
4. August 31 posting of first draft on SC Biomass web site.
5. Fall meeting presentation, review, discussion and vote.

SC Biomass Endorsements

Endorsements of the SC Biomass Council for existing or proposed local, federal or state legislation shall be presented to a representative of the Legislative Committee for consideration. The Legislative Committee may request additional information on the implications and impact to be prepared and presented by the requesting party. Endorsements of the SC Biomass Council may only be approved by a general vote of the membership requiring a simple majority at a regular meeting or by email using the same process as defined in the Legislative profile ratification outlined above.