September 15, 2015

**CPA Position on Biomass Energy Policies Impacting Wood Fiber Supply**

I. **CPA opposes government policies that distort the market for woody biomass raw material.**

- Market forces should determine all uses of wood and wood residuals for renewable energy.
- Policies that have the direct effect of diverting biomass supply to subsidized energy should be avoided.
- Governments that choose to initiate policies intended to increase demand for biomass energy production should couple them with policies that increase the available long-term supply of wood to meet future demand of composite wood panels as well as new and growing markets for energy and other uses.

II. **CPA will stay silent on the carbon neutrality of wood-to-energy.**

- Forest derived biomass should be treated as carbon neutral where there is a sustainable growing forest.
- Within carbon accounting frameworks, the composite panel industry’s use of wood residuals to make long-lived products should be treated as a higher value use than energy recovery.
- The composite panel industry’s use of wood residuals is an important alternate use that should be considered when determining the scope of “qualified biomass” under the US EPA’s Clean Power Plan.

III. **CPA will advocate that composite wood products be recognized for their carbon sequestration benefits.**

- Public policies should recognize that sustainably managed forests and forest products sequester and store carbon and reduce CO₂.
- The use of biomass in creating long-lived products that serve as carbon sinks should be formally recognized in any carbon calculations that might be referenced in a future carbon economy.