

COMMENTS FROM: John Bonitz; Farm Outreach & Policy Advocate; Southern Alliance for Clean Energy; P.O. Box 1833; Pittsboro, NC 27312

I would like to comment on the recommendations of the Renewables Committee and the Baseload Committee of the Energy Policy Council.

The Efficiency committee proposes a number of policy changes that would increase the efficiency of all fuel-driven electricity generation. SACE strongly supports increasing the efficiency with which we consume and utilize coal, natural gas, biomass, or any other fuel for electricity generation. For example, the Division of Air Quality ought to regulate emissions using output-based standards. In this way, regulations will encourage more energy and more work to be derived from the same amount of fuel, which will boost our Gross State Product. This should be a foremost goal for economic development.

The Renewables committee proposes change in law to allow thermal RECs, wherein thermal energy from poultry waste or swine waste CHP would qualify for these two set-asides. SACE strongly supports this proposal.

I'd like to emphasize biomass as a viable, cost-competitive, readily implementable technology. For the goal of economic development, biomass co-firing, biomass re-powering, and greenfield biopower are more effective than all the other baseload technologies because the fuel expenditures stay inside the state, recirculating in the local economy, growing jobs, bolstering small businesses, and increasing local and state tax revenues. As baseload assets are retired and new baseload generation construction is proposed, biomass electricity should be elevated above all other baseload technologies, especially when the biopower is configured as CHP, cogeneration, or district heating/cooling.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EPC's committee's recommendations.

-- John Bonitz --