

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

November 13, 2013

Mr. Adam Sieminski  
Administrator  
U.S. Energy Information Administration  
1000 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Administrator Sieminski:

Thank you for including thermal biomass data in the Energy Information Administration's 2012 and 2013 Short Term Energy and Winter Fuels Outlook reports. As wood heat continues to serve as a major source of energy for households across our country, it is important that its use be recognized as a viable and affordable heating option. With this in mind, we are writing to request a staff-level meeting to discuss ways your office can help ensure that wood and pellet data continue to be captured in relevant EIA reports.

EIA provides energy data that is critical to informing current and future policy efforts to address our nation's energy-related challenges. Given the escalating costs of petroleum, in the coming years, wood consumption is expected to surpass fuel oil. Already, wood pellets and firewood comprise 70 percent of residential distributed renewable energy generation in the United States and these fuel sources are growing at a rate faster than other fuels. With increased emphasis on biomass utilization policies, this growth may accelerate. For these reasons, it is important to improve understanding of the consumption, supply, and pricing of wood heat sources.

We are hopeful that we can build on the progress established by EIA's recent inclusion of thermal biomass data. The continued and expanded reporting of this important fuel source will provide a clearer picture of our nation's home heating fuel portfolio. Please be in contact with Robert Diznoff with Senator Shaheen at (202) 224-7092 and Olivia Kurtz with Senator Collins at (202) 224-2523 to coordinate a meeting. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Susan Collins  
United States Senator