

# Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

February 16, 1982

## WOOD ENERGY CAUCUS BRIEFING

Dear Colleague:

As members of the Congressional Wood Energy Caucus, we would like to invite you to the latest in a series of briefings put on by the Caucus.

Wood is the renewable energy source with the greatest near-term potential for displacing oil, having already surpassed hydro and nuclear in end-use consumption nationwide. Several studies have shown that wood contributes more than 1.5 quadrillion BTUs yearly. In many respects, however, our current use of wood has barely scratched the surface of its potential.

The briefing is at 9:30 a.m. Monday, February 22, in 1302 Longworth. We will discuss the implications of recent policy changes such as the fiscal year 1983 budget proposals and the Administration's desire to move biomass programs to the Department of Commerce.

Speakers at the seminar will include: Dr. Leslie Levine of the Biomass Energy Research Association and formerly director of the Office of Renewable Technology at DOE; Carter Keithley of the Wood Heating Alliance; Steve Morgan, a researcher specializing in wood energy for the New England Energy Congress in Boston; officials of the Energy and Agriculture Departments.

At a time when biomass energy research will drop from \$56 million in fiscal year 1981 to a proposed \$6.7 million in FY 83, we feel it is appropriate to discuss the impact of such a change on the future of an energy source as important as wood. If you have any questions about this briefing or about the Wood Energy Caucus, please contact David Wilson at 5-4115, or John Fitzgerald at 5-3561.