AMENDMENT NO. 3140

Purpose: To require certain Federal agencies to establish consistent policies relating to forest biomass energy to help address the energy needs of the United States.

Viz:

1. At the end of part IV of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

   SEC. 30. POLICIES RELATING TO BIOMASS ENERGY.

4. To support the key role that forests in the United States can play in addressing the energy needs of the United States, the Secretary, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall jointly—

   (1) ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy—
(A) is consistent across all Federal departments and agencies; and

(B) recognizes the full benefits of the use of forest biomass for energy, conservation, and responsible forest management; and

(2) establish clear and simple policies for the use of biomass as an energy solution, including policies that—

(A) reflect the carbon-neutrality of forest bioenergy and

recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, provided the use of forest biomass for energy production does not cause conversion of forests to non-forest use.

(B) encourage private investment throughout the biomass supply chain, including in—

(i) working forests;

(ii) harvesting operations;

(iii) forest improvement operations;

(iv) bioenergy;

(v) wood products; and or

(vi) paper manufacturing;

(c) encourage forest management to improve forest health; and

(D) recognize State initiatives to use biomass.