



# Government Affairs Update





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# **Government Relations**



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The Government Affairs (GA) Committee is very active on:

- Federal Legislative Priorities on Capitol Hill.
- Regulatory focuses at the federal level.
- Monitor State Level Activities
- Assist with Grassroots Efforts

**New Manager of Government Affairs, Ryan Carroll**



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## **Updates on 2009/2010 legislative pursuits in 112th Congress**

- 30% Tax Credit Capped at \$1,500 for 75% Efficient Stoves *part of second stimulus package that raised it from \$300*, December 2010 tax extenders bill extended the efficient stoves tax credit, but capped the credit at \$300 annually and \$500 lifetime.
- S. 1094, the Renewable Energy Alternative Production Act (REAP Act), introduced by Sen. Wyden (E-OR) – This legislation included language for a production tax credit (PTC) for the manufacturing of wood pellets.
- H.R. 2080, The American Biomass Heating Act, introduced by Rep. Hodes (D-NH) – This bill called for an increase in the existing tax credit for biomass appliances from \$1,500 to \$6,000.



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- S. 3188, The American Renewable Biomass Heating Act by Sen. Shaheen (D-NH) – This legislation would have provided an investment tax credit for biomass heating property.
- S. 1643, the Cleaner, Secure, and Affordable Thermal Energy Act, introduced by Sens. Snowe (R-ME) and Bingaman (D-NM) – Bill would have allowed fuel switching from home heating oil and natural gas to biomass for heating.
- H.R. 4227, Incentives to Increase Use of Renewable Biomass Act, introduced by Rep. Schrader (D-OR) – This bill would have allowed switching from fossil fuels to biomass.
- H.R. 3785, the Rural Energy Savings Program Act, introduced by Rep. Clyburn (D-SC) – This bill would have directed Secretary of Agriculture (USDA), through the Rural Utilities Service, to make interest-free loans to eligible entities for loans (which may bear interest of up to 3%) to qualified consumers to implement energy efficiency measures.



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- H.R. 5019 and S. 3434, the Home Star Energy Retrofit Act, introduced by Rep. Welch and Sen. Bingaman, respectively. – There was a rebate section for biomass stoves, boilers, and furnaces in all versions of this legislation.
- S. 3079, the Building Star Energy Efficiency Act, introduced by Sen. Merkley (D-OR) – There was a rebate section for biomass boilers and furnaces in this bill.
- H.R. 622, introduced by Rep. Michaud (D-ME) – This legislation would have amended Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the credit for renewable electricity production to include electricity produced from biomass for on-site use.
- **Revolving Loan Fund for Confined Animal Feeding Operations FARM BILL**
- The Reduce Energy Bills at Home Act, draft legislation by Sen. Snowe – This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide modifications to the tax credit for non-business energy property. This bill allows up to a \$3,000 tax credit for 75% efficient stoves and 80% efficient furnaces and boilers that heat at least 75% of the home and emit less than 3.0 grams/hr.





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# Capital Hill “Fly In’s”

First – April-May

Next – Around Nov Board Meeting





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**IF YOU HAVE A NEW MEMBER  
OF CONGRESS IN YOUR DISTRICT**

1. Invite Them to Your Plant
2. See Me





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## PFI DEFENDS YOUR RIGHT TO DO BUSINESS!

The Administration and Congress have both stated that review of the effectiveness of regulatory programs, including their impact on domestic jobs, will be a major concern for at least the next two years. PFI will continue to monitor and provide comments on proposed rules that impact the pellet industry.

- **EPA's Boiler MACT Final Rule**
- **EPA's Solid Waste Rule**
- **USDA's Rule on the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP)**
- **OSHA's Proposed Rule on Combustible Dust**



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