

February 27, 2009

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

As Congress begins the Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations process, Purdue University respectfully submits for your consideration the Integrated Economic, Environmental and Technical Analysis of Sustainable Biomass Energy Systems initiative.

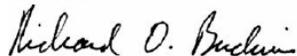
This research will determine how Indiana and the Midwest can contribute to the national goal of generating 25 percent of our energy from renewable sources by 2025 and will examine how biomass production and conversion would affect the economy and environment of the region. We will study the economic and environmental consequences of feasible alternative energy sources and determine the most sustainable and profitable strategy to provide renewable energy from biomass. The results will help determine which actions and policies should be implemented to encourage economic agents to achieve the goals in an environmentally sustainable way.

Furthermore, it will produce a set of actions needed by public agencies to introduce and implement policies encouraging economic agents to achieve the targeted goals in an environmentally sustainable way. Technologies developed to mitigate negative impacts may result in additional economic opportunities to our communities. The combined results of these components will provide a significant boost to our capability to use biomass energy in a cost effective and sustainable manner.

The rapid expansion of bioenergy production in Indiana and the US will have profound impacts on our environment as well as our economy. While many regional and national leaders endorse the renewable energy goal, detailed analysis of the economic and environmental consequences of such a huge change remains sparse. However, we can anticipate that the widespread production of biomass for bioenergy will result in an altered Midwestern landscape that will significantly impact our environment and ecosystem.

On behalf of President France Córdova, I thank you for your support of the students, faculty, and staff at Purdue University. We look forward to working with you to translate the technological advances made on our campuses into economic drivers for the State of Indiana.

Sincerely,



Richard O. Buckius
Vice President of Research