

## **Biomass Research and Development Initiative Technical Advisory Committee Appoints New Members**

The Biomass Research and Development Initiative is pleased to announce the appointment of six new members to the Biomass Research and Development Technical Advisory Committee. Gil Gutknecht, Dr. Richard Hamilton, Jay Levenstein, Shirley Neff, Tom Simpson and Richard F. Timmons were invited to participate in their first Committee meeting, also the first meeting of calendar year 2008, on February 6-7 in Arlington, Virginia.

The new members come from diverse backgrounds and will contribute valuable expertise to the activities of the panel. Their experience is as follows:

- Gil Gutknecht will serve as co-chair for the Committee. He is currently a consultant working with three companies and partnering in a fourth, all of which are involved with renewable energy and emerging technologies. Prior to being a consultant, he represented Minnesota's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 1995 – 2007. During his last six years in the House, Mr. Gutknecht served as Chair on the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry, overseeing renewable energy programs.
- Dr. Richard Hamilton has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Ceres, Incorporated since September 2002. Previously, he served as Chief Financial Officer of the company since joining Ceres in 1998. He served as Vice-Chairman of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and as Chairman of its Food and Agriculture Governing Board from June 2003 – June 2005.
- Jay Levenstein is Deputy Commissioner for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He oversees the Divisions of Forestry, Animal Industry and Standards. Recently, Mr. Levenstein developed the Department's Farm-to-Fuel Initiative to promote the production and distribution of renewable energy from Florida-grown crops, agricultural wastes and residues, and other biomass. He also serves as a member of the Renewable Energy Advisory Group of the Florida Energy Commission.
- Shirley Neff has served as the President of the Association of Oil Pipelines (AOPL) since November 2006. Prior to joining AOPL, Ms. Neff was Adjunct Lecturer and Research Scholar at the Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy (CEMTPP) in the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University in New York and an advisor to Goldwyn International Strategies. Ms. Neff was economist for the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources from 1993-1996 and from 1999-2003. While on the staff of the Senate Committee, she was

responsible for oil and gas policy, international energy security, renewable energy, climate change, and energy tax matters.

- Tom Simpson is the Executive Director of the Railway Supply Institute's (RSI) Washington, D.C. Office. Mr. Simpson joined RSI in 1988. In this capacity he is responsible for the RSI Committees on Quality Assurance, Standard Coupler Manufacturers, State Taxation, Tank Cars, Equipment Leasing, Maintenance-of-Way, and Train Control Technologies. Prior to joining RSI he worked at the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C.
- Richard F. Timmons has served as President of the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) since September 2002. Mr. Timmons represents the interests of these railroads before Congress and Federal and State regulatory agencies and on the policy and technical committees of the U.S. railroad industry. The ASLRRA also serves as a liaison between its member railroads and the large railroads of this nation.

Departing members for 2007 were Thomas Ewing (Davis and Harman) as co-chair, James Barber (Metabolix), Arthur Blazer (New Mexico State Forestry), John Hickman (John Deere & Company), and Larry Pearce (Governors' Ethanol Coalition).

The Committee was established by the Biomass R&D Act of 2000, which was revised by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and further amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The Committee, comprised of approximately 30 experts in the field, is charged to advise the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture on the direction of biomass research and evaluate and perform strategic planning. Members serve two-year terms with the possibility of renewal.

To read more about the new appointees in the official U.S. Department of Energy press release, follow this link <http://www.energy.gov/news/5826.htm>.