



Northwest Pulp & Paper
ASSOCIATION

January 20, 2022

Cooper Garbe
Rulemaking Lead
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: NWPPA comments on WAC 173-446 Climate Commitment Act Program

Dear Mr. Garbe:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Northwest Pulp & Paper Association (NWPPA) to provide comments on the Department of Ecology's Climate Commitment Act Program rulemaking, Ch. 173-446, WAC, as referenced above.

NWPPA is a 65-year-old regional trade association representing 10 member companies and 14 pulp and paper mills and various forest product manufacturing facilities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Our members are at the forefront of Washington GHG reduction and air quality improvement efforts. NWPPA members have embraced technically advanced and scientifically sound controls on air emissions over the past 20 plus years. We are committed to the hard work, expense, and discipline it takes to be good partners in our respective communities.

Our initial review of the preliminary rule language in the version dated January 4 reveals a subsection that requires clarification and correction. Here is the background:

- RCW 70A.65.080(7) is very clear in stating that carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of biomass or biofuels are exempt from coverage in the Climate Commitment Act.
- The definition of "biomass" in WAC 173-441 is broad and certainly includes kraft pulp mill black liquor. Black liquor is a by-product of wood pulping which is subsequently combusted in a recovery furnace for its fuel value and chemical recovery. Emission of carbon dioxide results from black liquor combustion.

The preliminary language of WAC 173-446-040(2)(a), Covered Emissions – Exemptions, correctly notes that carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of biomass fuels are not "covered emissions" and thus not subject to this developing regulation. Yet, the next subsection, -040(3), includes language which if taken literally would re-classify GHG emissions from the "onsite combustion of fuel products" as "covered emissions" with "black liquor" given as an example of a fuel product. WAC 173-446-040(3)(a)(i)(C).



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This issue could be further developed and discussed if needed. We suggest, however, that Ecology recognize how this section language could create confusion and modify it to conform to the CCA.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on this important rulemaking. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jackie White
Director of Regulatory and Technical Affairs
Northwest Pulp & Paper Association