(LETTERHEAD)

April \_\_, 2019

The Honorable Richard Burr

United States Senate

217 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

I respectfully request your co-sponsorship of S. 628, the Biomass Thermal Utilization Act of 2019. I invite you to support this legislation to help strengthen American energy independence, lower greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and stimulate local economic development in rural North Carolina

I am contacting you on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (A few sentences to describe your company and what you do, your interest in modern wood heating and the investment you’ve made in North Carolina.

Co-sponsored in the Senate by Susan Collins, Angus King and Jeanne ShaheenSenate by Senator Susan Collins, Senator Angus King, and Senator Jeanne Shaheen, the “BTU Act” extends to high efficiency, clean wood heating systems the investment tax credits that currently exist for every other renewable energy technology. Legislation similar to S.628 has been introduced every session of Congress since 2009 in an effort to address this omission from the 2005 Energy Policy Act, which codified investment tax credit for renewable energy technologies under sections 25D and 48 of the IRS Code.

Specifically, the BTU Act provides for a 30% investment credit against installed capital cost for residential installations (IRC section 25D), and a 15% or 30% credit against installed capital cost for business installations, depending on level of efficiency met by the system (IRC section 48).

Federal renewable energy investment tax credits expired at the end of 2016, but certain solar and wind credits were renewed in 2017. There will be a vigorous debate about whether or to what extent to reauthorize these credits during the 116th Congress. For biomass thermal to get just consideration, we must demonstrate strong support for the BTU Act. Your co-sponsorship will send a powerful signal that advanced wood heating technology, such as that embraced in North Carolina, is deserving of parity tax treatment similar to that enjoyed by solar thermal, geothermal and all other renewable energy technologies.

Harnessing the potential of biomass thermal energy can increase rural economic development, job creation, and energy savings. When other heating fuels hit record highs in recent winters, modern wood heating systems provided cost savings of nearly 50% through utilizing fuels that come from our productive forests. The main hurdle that is precluding homeowners and businesses from converting to biomass thermal systems is the upfront capital costs of conversion. By granting a modest investment credit, Congress can break down that barrier and accelerate the deployment of the advanced wood heating technologies in our heavily forested and rural state.

We ask your support for this legislation that would be good for North Carolina. Your staff may contact Morgan Cashwell in Senator King’s office for additional information, at morgan\_cashwell@king.senate.gov or 202-224-5344. Thank you for your consideration. Would you kindly extend to me the courtesy of a written response regarding your intentions?

Sincerely,

Dan Wilson

President, Wilson Engineering

Cc: Robert Sneeden