

Text Version for Guest Speaker Chuck Leavell's Biomass 2011 Video

[The video shows musician, author, and environmental activist, Chuck Leavell, standing at the podium at the Biomass 2011 Conference, speaking to the audience.]

Chuck Leavell: So biomass markets can help provide the financial underpinning of keeping forests, forests. It can create energy and fuels to families, and it can create jobs, which has also been mentioned today. Some might worry that biomass market might speed the destruction of the forests. Some of you may have seen these ads that say our forests are not fuels. Well, I say to that, bunk! And I'll say it again. Bunk! It's a bunch of bunk.

First of all, we're not talking about cutting trees for the sole purpose of biomass for energy. We're talking about using what is now mostly wasted material for biomass; and besides, there's plenty of evidence that the plants online now will not affect how much our forests are growing—which, by the way, is a very, very positive number—and how much all markets, including biomass, are consuming.

So lander... landowners are looking for a reason to stay on the land, and that's the mantra that we have had in the American Forest Foundation. We want to keep people on the land and land owned by the people.

The bottom line here is that biomass markets have a great, great potential for energy independence that can help us have clean air and clean water. They can create jobs. But even beyond that, they have the potential to keep our forests well managed and mainly to keep our forests, forests. Thank you all so much. Appreciate it