

*Frank Keating*  
Governor

**FILED**

**JUN 20 2001**

OKLAHOMA SECRETARY  
OF STATE

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2001-22**

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I, Frank Keating, Governor of the State of Oklahoma, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 1 and 2 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution hereby declare that it is in the best interest of the State of Oklahoma, both economically and environmentally, to develop and pursue bioenergy alternatives for cleaner energy sources. In order to research and develop available options appropriate for Oklahoma, I hereby appoint the Secretary of the Environment to chair Oklahoma's Bioenergy Initiative.

While Oklahoma currently enjoys adequate supplies of fuel and electricity, as well as air quality that continues to meet Federal standards, we must take steps now to avoid the problems faced by other states. Energy conservation is of utmost importance in this regard, but it must be coupled with an effort to identify more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy sources. An emerging field that capitalizes on the use of "biomass," or organic matter, for energy production holds great promise for a more healthy and sustainable future.

Southern states, such as Oklahoma, are particularly poised to lead the nation in efforts to utilize biomass for energy production, particularly with our vast supplies of crop residues, grasses, trees, animal waste and other biomass resources. Despite our unique potential for bioenergy production, Oklahoma and the southern region still have tremendous untapped potential in this rapidly growing field. Oklahoma must assume a more active role in developing bioenergy production in an effort to increase energy production and economic development, while at the same time, reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

As my designated representative on the Southern States Biobased Alliance, the Secretary of the Environment will be able to work with other southern states to share experiences, coordinate policies, and collaborate on ways to stretch scarce resources. Additionally, the Secretary of the Environment will work with Oklahoma's energy sector, as well as agriculture producers, forestry companies, and other natural resource industries to develop effective private sector partnerships and new, coordinated R&D programs. The net result of this effort should be a growing, vibrant economy, particularly in rural areas of our state, with environmental, energy security, and other benefits that will improve the quality of life for all Oklahomans.

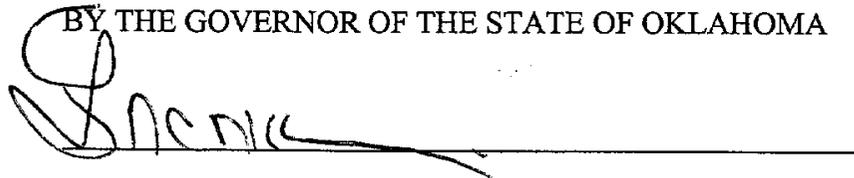
Under this Bioenergy Initiative, the Secretary of the Environment shall look at ways to capitalize on the following benefits of utilizing biomass for energy production:

1. Environmental benefits - bioenergy technologies are clean sources of energy that have a much lower environmental impact than conventional energy technologies.
2. Renewable energy benefits - bioenergy feedstocks will never run out, whereas fossil fuels used in most conventional energy production are finite.
3. Economic benefits - most bioenergy investments are spent on materials and workmanship, rather than on costly energy imports. These investments are usually spent within the state, and often in the rural areas involved in producing bioenergy feedstocks. Additionally, new bioenergy technologies can be sold nationally and worldwide, providing new marketing opportunities for Oklahoma businesses.
4. Energy security benefits - since biomass is typically produced locally, bioenergy alternatives decrease our dependence on foreign oil supplies.

This executive order shall be distributed to the Office of the Secretary of Environment, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Office of the Secretary of Energy, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University who shall cause the provisions of this order to be implemented.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed at Oklahoma City, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. CRICK', is written over a horizontal line.

Attest:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. J. BENTON', is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of State