



GUIDELINES FOR WRITING AN OP-ED OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

- Shorter is better. Depending on the paper, LTE's are limited to 200-300 words. Op-eds are 650-800. Make your opening and ending sentences compelling.
- Link your comments to a news piece, editorial, or another letter. The more current, the better.
- Ideas should be limited to one or two. Don't try to accomplish too much in one piece.
- Personal experience can add credibility.
- Proofread! Have someone else read your letter before you submit it. Check your facts.
- If published, send a copy of your letter to Campaign Organizer Emily Zucchini at emily@dogwoodalliance.org so that we can share it with our supporters.

If you're interested in sending an Op-ed to your local paper and would like help developing your talking points, contact Communications Director Scot Quaranda at scot@dogwoodalliance.org.

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The rapid expansion of biomass facilities in the Southeast/Your City is cause for great concern. Right now, backwards European policies are threatening our forests by dramatically increasing logging rates, including clear-cuts, while intensifying carbon emissions, contributing to climate change at a time when we need to actively cut our carbon pollution.

Optional – insert your personal or community story here.

Power companies and pellet manufacturers promote biomass energy as a way to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. Yet recent reports confirm that burning wood pellets is just the opposite and is not a feasible alternative to coal. While the need for renewable sources of energy is pressing, clear-cutting forests to be used as fuel in Europe is not the answer.

Our forests are too valuable to be destroyed for fuel. In addition to storing and sequestering carbon, one of the best tools to fight climate change, forests filter water; are a place to hunt, fish, and camp; and provide habitat for various wildlife. If big power plants turn increasingly to trees for their fuel, it will intensify pressure to overharvest our forests, threatening our climate, wildlife, and local communities.

I oppose plans for the expansion of this industry in my community. We need utility companies to invest in truly renewable energy sources that put the needs of our environment and community before profit. Burning our forests for fuel is not the answer.

Use the LTE as is, or personalize it and make it your own.