

ED PERLMUTTER  
7TH DISTRICT, COLORADO



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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
415 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-2645  
FAX: (202) 225-5278

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
12800 WEST COLFAX AVENUE  
SUITE B-400  
LAKEWOOD, CO 80215  
PHONE: (303) 274-7944  
FAX: (303) 274-6455

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Colorado Wood Utilization and Marketing Program  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1472

I would like to thank Colorado State University and all the sponsors for hosting this important conference. This conference asks the question, 'Can Forests Meet Our Energy Needs?' Colorado, the nation and the world face serious energy supply issues. Here in Colorado we are faced with a serious bark beetle infestation that killed millions of acres of trees and is only getting worse. This destruction coupled with drought and climate change place Colorado in greater forest fire danger. That is why I, along with all the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, am an original co-sponsor of Representative Mark Udall's bill, H.R. 3072, the Colorado Forest Management Improvement Act of 2007. This bill will bolster fire mitigation efforts and also promote biomass facilities.

In 2007, I was able to secure an appropriation for Jefferson County and their Bioenergy Initiative for a woody biomass plant that will utilize trees killed by bark beetles as fuel. Through public and private partnerships we can turn the devastation of Colorado's forests into a clean energy source. Woody biomass has a large part to play in a balanced and clean energy future. I applaud the efforts and dialogue conferences like this help to support as we work on promoting clean and renewable energy for this nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Perlmutter'.

Ed Perlmutter (CO-07)  
Member of Congress