



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
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THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
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SUBJECT: Department of Defense Biobased Products and Green Procurement Program

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 directs Federal agencies to establish procurement preference programs for biobased products designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. After such designation, preference is mandated for Federal procurement of the biobased items, with exceptions related to price, availability, and performance.

Biobased products provide a sound alternative in a variety of Department of Defense (DoD) operations and applications. Many biobased items replace non-renewable fossil energy-based products derived from imported oil and natural gas, and therefore support the President's initiative of reducing dependence on foreign sources of energy.

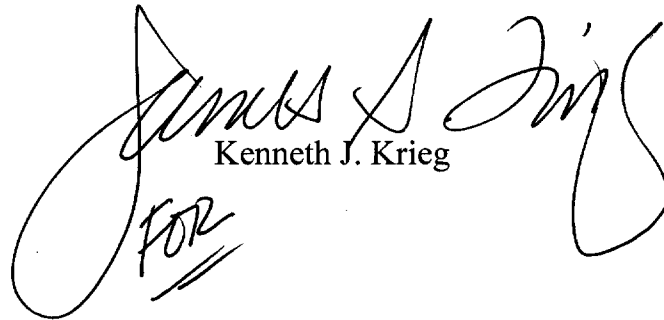
The DoD fully supports the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to promote the use of biobased products, and has included biobased products as part of the overall DoD Green Procurement Program Strategy. The DoD Green Procurement Program may be reviewed at:

http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/policy/green_procurement.htm.



Pending the finalization of USDA implementing guidance, DoD activities are encouraged to purchase and use biobased alternative products and to initiate projects which further demonstrate the value and utility of these materials in DoD applications. Biobased products include fuel additives, biolubricants, biobased hydraulics, janitorial supplies, construction products, and plastic alternatives such as biobased cutlery. DoD activities are also encouraged to consider related products which are based on renewable materials, including biofuels and alternative energy, biodegradable materials including compostable food packaging, and wood products which originate from sustainably managed forests.

The expanded use of biobased products makes good sense for both the DoD and our Nation. Please ensure that this biobased product initiative and DoD's Green Procurement Program receive your full support.



Kenneth J. Krieg
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