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Environmentalists are wary. Although they like the idea that biomass generation can help pay for forest thinning, they want natural fire to take over once the thinning is done.

"One should not consider biomass energy sustainable or re-

mass projects get up and running. "Because for the most part, after these forests have been thinned, you don't want them to get thick again, certainly not thick enough to be economically feasible to cut the trees down and haul them to the biomass energy incinerator."

For now, the grants and tax

back the estimated \$5 million investment in four years instead of 10, said Phillippi of Rough & Ready Lumber.

"These plants were always unaffordable because of our size," said Phillippi. But with the grants and tax credits, "It looked pretty good. We went ahead and did it. We're glad we did."

Purchases connect Toyota unit to slave labor in Brazil

Trading company buys shipments of pig iron from company that used charcoal made by slaves

Bloomberg News

Toyota Motor Corp.'s trading company buys pig iron, a key steelmaking ingredient, from a company that used charcoal made by Brazilian slaves, according to government reports.

Toyota Tsusho Corp.'s U.S. unit bought at least seven shipments of pig iron from Usina Siderurgica de Marabá SA, or Usimar, in 2006, U.S. Customs records show.

Usimar purchased charcoal from a camp where Brazilian inspectors in May found 22 people, including three children, who weren't being paid for their work. They were living in squalid shacks without electricity and plumbing, and drinking unsanitary water, inspectors reported.

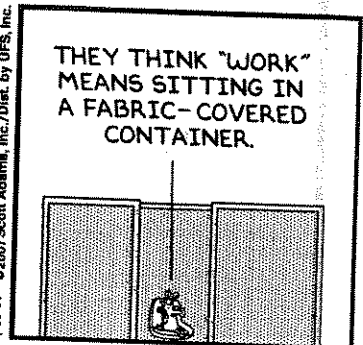
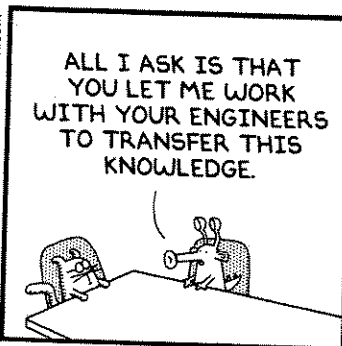
Toyota Tsusho, part of Toyota Motor Group, is a publicly traded company whose largest shareholder is Toyota Motor.

Toyota Tsusho sells steel to Toyota Motor, Toyota Tsusho spokesman Morimasa Konishi said.

Toyota Motor spokesman Dan Sieger said Toyota doesn't buy pig iron or steel from its trading company, even though Toyota Tsusho's spokesman said his company and its subsidiaries process steel in three U.S. locations and sell it to Toyota.

Kevin Bales, president of Free the Slaves, the U.S. arm of the world's oldest human rights group, said, "It's very clear that Toyota is in denial."

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