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(54) **SULFITE PRETREATMENT FOR BIOREFINING BIOMASS**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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The present invention relates to a method using sulfite pretreatment to overcome recalcitrance of lignocellulose (SPORL). More specifically, it relates to a sulfite-based chemical process for pretreating biomass in solutions to reduce access barriers of enzymes to the lignocellulose, resulting in efficient conversion through enzymatic saccharification.

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