

AB 222 FORM LETTER OF SUPPORT

Date

The Honorable Joe Simitian
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2080
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Simitian:

SUPPORT FOR AB 222

We are writing to urge your Committee's favorable consideration of Assembly Bill 222.

One of California's most sustainable resources is its biomass. AB 222 will make possible its use as a feedstock for the production of renewable energy—both advanced biofuels and electricity

Among its provisions, AB 222 will remove from statute a scientifically inaccurate definition of gasification that requires zero air emissions from the entire renewable energy production process, a level of performance required of no other manufacturing facility in the state.

It will establish a new regulatory category for a "biorefinery," enabling clean, 21st Century conversion technologies to be permitted as manufacturing facilities, rather than major solid waste landfills. In language that closely parallels the Waxman-Markey bill in Congress, it will confirm that the biogenic portion of any waste stream qualifies as a feedstock for the production of renewable electricity under the RPS.

Developing such facilities in California has the potential to reduce the environmental impacts of waste disposal and provide low-cost, locally produced liquid and electric energy for our citizens. AB 222 will contribute to energy independence and national security by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and making possible the recovery of energy from the more than 35 million tons of municipal solid waste that the state places in landfills each year.

We will be closely following the progress of this bill as it is considered by the Senate, and we urge your full support for this important legislative proposal.

Sincerely,