

SAMPLE LETTER

May____, 2010

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

Dear Senator Simitian:

SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 222: BIOREFINERIES

The City of _____ supports Assembly Bill 222 (AB 222) relating to biorefineries.

Currently, State law (AB 939) requires cities and counties in California to reduce the amount of waste disposed in landfills and incinerators. Additionally, California has set an ambitious goal of deriving 33 percent of our energy from renewable sources. Conversion technologies, which convert residual, post-recycled solid waste into renewable energy, green fuels and other marketable products, could help the State achieve these important goals in an environmentally sustainable manner.

If enacted, AB 222 would establish a new category of industries, termed biorefineries, and correct scientifically flawed definitions within the California's Public Resources Code, which have hampered the development of conversion technologies, thereby leveling the playing field for the development of these facilities within California.

With landfill space at a premium and disposal rates expected to increase, California jurisdictions must invest in alternatives to landfill disposal such as conversion technologies and biorefineries that reduce disposal rates, generate jobs, and utilize abundant biomass and organic waste material. Developing such facilities in California has the potential to reduce the environmental impacts of solid waste management (including the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere), complement our recycling industry, and lessen our dependence on landfilling all while complying with strict environmental standards.

Recent research by the University of California at Riverside indicates that conversion technologies can meet the most stringent emission standards in California. Their study, *Evaluation of Emissions from Thermal Conversion Technologies Processing Municipal Solid Waste (June 2009)*, identified 100 gasification/pyrolysis facilities operating around the world. Detailed emissions profiles of 16 facilities (four of which are operating in the United States) indicate that most of them already meet emissions standards in California while also meeting standards of their host country.

State regulatory agencies also understand the importance of conversion technologies. On April 15, 2010, California's three largest planning and regulating agencies relating to solid waste, air quality and energy joined together in support of AB 222. In their joint letter, the Air Resources Board, Energy Commission, and Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery stated, "AB 222 supports innovation and the introduction of a range of new technologies for production of biofuels and renewable energy from organic wastes that **meets California's environmental standards**" (emphasis added).

Senator Simitian
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We understand the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality will be reviewing AB 222 shortly, which we will be closely monitoring, and we urge your full support for this important legislative proposal. Should you have any questions, please contact _____.

Sincerely,

Mayor, City of _____

cc: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senate President Pro-Tem
Speaker of the Assembly
Assembly Members Adams and Ma
Each Member of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Each Member of the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
League of California Cities
California State Association of Counties
Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force