



GAIL FARBER
CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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November 5, 2009

The Honorable Ben Nelson
720 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Senator Nelson:

**U.S. SENATE BILL 306 (INTRODUCED JANUARY 22, 2009)
BIOGAS PRODUCTION INCENTIVE ACT OF 2009**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) **supports** U.S. Senate Bill 306 (S. 306). S. 306, if enacted, would provide a business-related tax credit for the production, sale, or use of biogas created from organic waste materials.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939, as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of 10 million. Consistent with these responsibilities, and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally-sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a Countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the City of Los Angeles, the waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

S. 306, if enacted, amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a business-related tax credit for the production, sale, or use of biogas, defined as a gas derived from qualified energy feedstock (such as landfill, sewage, food industry, animal, or agricultural waste) using anaerobic digesters or other biological, chemical, or thermal processes. The Task Force has consistently supported the development of facilities that utilize residual post-recycled municipal solid waste ("landfill waste" as it is described in the bill) and other organic waste material into useful products, alternative fuels, and clean, renewable

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energy. The Task Force in concert with the County of Los Angeles and other public agencies has been evaluating and promoting such conversion technologies and has accumulated a wealth of research and information which is provided on our website, www.SoCalConversion.org.

S. 306 reaffirms the importance of these new technologies in promoting energy independence and more effectively managing our waste materials, and creates an important incentive that will help to accelerate their development. Developing such facilities has the potential to reduce the environmental impacts of solid waste management (including limiting the generation and release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere), complement the recycling industry, and lessen dependence on landfilling and fossil fuel. Therefore, the Task Force **supports** S. 306, and looks forward to its passage. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader
U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein
Each Member of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Each City Mayor in the County of Los Angeles
National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division
Southern California Association of Governments
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Gateway Cities Council of Governments
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County