September 4, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA  95814

   Re:  Support for AB 1826 (Chesbro) – Organic Waste Reduction

Dear Governor Brown:

I am writing on behalf of the Bioenergy Association of California to urge you to sign AB 1826, which will help to promote bioenergy development in California by providing the feedstock for ultra-low carbon transportation fuels, pipeline biogas, renewable electricity and combined heat and power. By doing so, it will help California to meet its waste diversion, renewable energy, low carbon fuel and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The Bioenergy Association of California represents more than 50 local governments, public agencies and private companies working to promote sustainable bioenergy development in California. BAC’s public members include air quality, environmental protection, sanitation, water quality and solid waste agencies. Its industry members include bioenergy and biofuels developers, waste managers, agriculture, technology providers, investors and other companies and businesses that support this sector.

California currently landfills 37 million tons of waste per year, almost half of which – 16 million tons – is organic waste that can be used instead to generate clean, renewable electricity and low carbon transportation fuels.

- Diverted organic waste could produce 492 million gallons of ultra-low carbon transportation fuels or 2,000 megawatts of renewable electricity.
- The Air Resources Board has determined that transportation fuels from diverted organic waste are carbon negative fuels due to the reduced methane emissions and reduced fossil fuel use.
- Converting organic waste to renewable transportation fuels and electricity will reduce air and water pollution and environmental justice impacts by reducing toxic diesel emissions from heavy duty vehicles and other pollution cause by fossil fuel use.
• The beneficial use of organic waste can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 10 million metric tons CO₂ equivalent.¹
• Recovering food and green waste would produce 14,000 new jobs in California.²

AB 1826 will help California to achieve these benefits by diverting commercial organic waste away from landfills to more beneficial uses.

For all these reasons, the Bioenergy Association of California urges you to sign AB 1826.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Levin
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Wes Chesbro

¹ This figure does not include the ghg reductions from reduced fossil fuel use. CalRecycle Paper on Composting and Anaerobic Digestion, released September 17, 2013, Table 2, page 5.
² CalRecycle.