September 4, 2014

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

RE: Support for SB 498 (Lara) - Biomass Conversion

Dear Governor Brown:

The Bioenergy Association of California respectfully requests your signature on SB 498 (Lara), which expands the definition of “biomass conversion” to include non-combustion conversion technologies. By clarifying the definition of biomass conversion, SB 498 will help California to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard and other clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The Bioenergy Association of California (BAC) is an association of companies, public agencies and local governments working to promote sustainable bioenergy development in California. BAC’s public sector members include the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, which is one of the bill’s sponsors, the Cities of Fresno and San Jose, and numerous water, solid waste, environmental protection and other agencies. BAC’s industry members include energy and waste management companies, technology and service providers, investors and other private sector members.

Current law limits "biomass conversion" to the controlled combustion of organic materials—such as wood, lawn and garden clippings, agricultural waste, leaves, tree pruning as well as non-recyclable paper—when separated from other solid waste and used for producing electricity or heat. This bill would simply include thermal conversion technologies in the biomass definition, allowing for cleaner and more efficient non-combustion technologies to be used to process biomass and creating a new pathway for low-carbon fuels.

For all these reasons, the Bioenergy Association of California urges you to sign SB 498.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Levin
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Ricardo Lara