August 31, 2015

The Honorable Toni Atkins, Speaker
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA  95814

Re:  Need to Allocate GGRF Funds to Bioenergy

Dear Speaker Atkins:

I am writing on behalf of the Bioenergy Association of California to urge the Legislature to allocate Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF) to bioenergy. Increasing bioenergy production in California will help the state to achieve the 50 percent RPS and 50 percent petroleum reduction goals in SB 350. Biogas from organic waste provides the lowest carbon transportation of any kind, produces flexible generation renewable power, generates 2 to 6 times as many jobs as fossil fuels and helps to reduce air pollution, wildfire and landfilling.

The Bioenergy Association of California (BAC) represents more than 60 private companies, public agencies, local governments and others working to convert organic waste to energy. BAC members use organic waste that would otherwise be landfilled, dairy and agricultural waste, forestry waste, and biogas from wastewater treatment and landfills to provide renewable energy and low carbon fuels.

BAC urges you to allocate GGRF funding to bioenergy as follows:

1. $100 million for biomethane production and deployment in natural gas vehicles (Perea, AB 857).
2. $40 million to purify biogas to meet pipeline injection standards (Bonilla, AB 577).
3. $25 million for bioenergy production from diverted organic waste.
4. $25 million for the development of small-scale forest bioenergy facilities.
5. $25 million for Agricultural and Water Efficiency, including the Healthy Soils Initiative, and $25 million for dairy digesters.

6. $25 million for biogas production from wastewater treatment facilities.

Bioenergy can help California to reduce climate and air pollution, cut landfilling and wildfires, while providing jobs and economic development. We urge you, therefore, to allocate GGRF funds to the bioenergy categories described above.

Sincerely,

Julia A. Levin
Executive Director