



May 11, 2020

Honorable Ben Hueso, Chair
Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1352 (Hueso) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hueso, Chair

The South Orange County Economic Coalition, which represent a broad coalition of energy users and providers from across Southern California, is pleased to **support** SB 1352 (Hueso), which directs the California Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the Air Resources Board, to adopt an in-state biomethane procurement requirement for gas corporations.

SB 1352 will help California achieve its climate change goals

Senate Bill 1383 (Lara, Statutes of 2016) established a statewide goal of reducing methane emissions by 40% below 2013 levels by 2030. As roughly 80% of the methane emissions in California come from agricultural or solid waste sources, SB 1352 presents an enormous emissions reduction opportunity. For this reason, it is critical that the state establish policies to help capture and put to beneficial use, this gas that would normally just vent to atmosphere, contributing to climate change.

Biomethane promotes jobs, especially in rural regions

Utility procurement of biomethane also has the potential to create in-state jobs and increase in-state economic activity, especially for rural and agricultural regions of the state. The construction and ongoing operation and maintenance of biomethane facilities will require skilled labor on-site at dairies, wastewater treatment plants, and diverted organic waste facilities. Many of these facilities fall within communities identified as disadvantaged by the state, especially many of those within the San Joaquin Valley. These regions will benefit from the increased economic activity associated with biomethane in addition to local environmental quality improvements.

Biomethane preserves customer choice and a resilient energy supply

Biomethane is a renewable substitute for traditional natural gas and can be used in the same manner without appliance or other end-use upgrades. Using biomethane to decarbonize end-uses allows consumers to use the appliances they prefer while minimizing carbon impact. This will allow for deep emissions reductions in two sectors simultaneously: the methane emissions from the biomethane source are reduced, and



the end-use GHG emissions are reduced, since the biomethane has displaced traditional natural gas.

Plus, this policy ensures resiliency in the energy system. Recent events, including hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and wildfires here in California, have shown us that an energy mix consisting of multiple fuel sources and distribution methods is key for ensuring that communities and first responders' energy needs are met when natural or man-made disasters occur. By maintaining a diverse energy portfolio, California can minimize interruptions in energy supply caused by climate change impacts and other natural disasters, in addition to mitigating public health, public safety and economic impacts.

For these reasons, the South Orange County Economic Coalition strongly supports SB 1352 and respectfully requests your "**AYE**" vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara J. Thomas".

Barbara J. Thomas, Executive Director (Interim)
South Orange County Economic Coalition

CC: Senator John M. W. Moorlach, Vice Chair
Senator Steven Bradford, Member
Senator Ling Ling Chang
Senator Brian Dahle
Senator Bill Dodd
Senator Robert M. Hertzberg
Senator Jerry Hill
Senator Mike McGuire
Senator Susan Rubio
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Henry I. Stern
Senator Scott D. Wiener