The Honorable Assemblymember Christina Garcia  
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Re: California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program
Su: Letter of Opposition To AB 655

Honorable Christina Garcia Chair & Committee Members:

We the undersigned Los Angeles Harbor and Los Angeles Area community based non-profit organizations are writing to advise you of our **Opposition to AB 655** which would amend the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program to allow waste-to-energy facilities to be eligible for Renewable Energy Credits.

All of our organizations are located in or provide direct service to low income, disadvantaged and environmentally challenged communities. We know what is best for our communities.

We do not consider the incineration of waste to be a renewable energy source, even if it creates some energy from its processing. The energy generated from this technology is the least cost-effective and this technology is the lowest producer of energy.

The combustion of municipal waste at the current three facilities still release significant and dangerous quantities of dioxins, furans, mercury, lead, carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, nitrous oxide and ammonia. Each category of emissions will increase with expanded use of landfills if state legislature fails to adopt public policies and programs that do not incorporate our Waste Alternative Recommendations. This formation is omitted in the bill.

We only support Renewable Energy Credits being allocated for projects and technologies which are truly designed to be zero emission and non-hazardous in its design and operations.

We do support:

**Waste Alternative Recommendations**

- Minimization of the Generation of Waste
- Maximize Manufacturer Life Time Product Usage
- Reduction of Manufacturer Excess Stock Inventory
- Maximum Manufacture of Products Using Recyclable/Reusable/Compostable Materials
- Maximum Reuse of Products such as Aluminum, Glass, Plastic, Cement & Parts
- Maximum Waste Category Separation
- Maximum Recycling of Components of Waste for New Usable Raw Materials
- Maximum Use & Support for Green Products
- Adoption of City, County and State Policies Requiring Purchase of Only Recyclable/Reusable/Compostable Products and Materials
We do not consider waste incineration as environmental or climate change mitigation when there are numerous clean, safe and non-hazardous alternatives which are true appropriate mitigation. Under CEQA Mitigation must eliminate a negative environmental impact or reduce the environmental impact to less-than-significant. Waste incineration technology may be widely recognized and widely used in some areas but it is not the best solution, best alternative or best investment of public funds.

AB 32 the Global Warming Solution Act of 2006 which makes the reduction of greenhouse gases a major priority in the state of California also requires the investment of public funds in projects which maximizes the reduction of GHG’s and in projects or technologies which do not generate GHG’s or other negative environmental impact. This information is omitted in the bill.

The three current facilities are already old, use out-dated technologies and do not justify the investment of $ 100’s of millions of dollars in public funds.

You should be comparing waste-to-energy technologies to zero emission and non-hazardous energy generation technologies not non-sustainable landfills which will forever generate toxic air emissions, greenhouse gases and toxic waste.

Existing laws and regulations fail to recognize waste-to-energy’s benefits because they are so few benefits and are insignificant compared to the cleaner, safer and non-hazardous alternatives.

There would be a significant reduction of waste hauling trucks going to landfills if we champion, incorporate and expand our Waste Alternative Recommendations included in this letter.

For all future communications with our coalition please contact me directly.

**We ask that you Vote No on this bill.**

Cordially,

Jesse N. Marquez

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