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Biofuels Resolution
California Board of Food and Agriculture

WHEREAS, human civilization has been dependent on non-renewable fossil fuels for over 200 years, and

WHEREAS, after 100 years of exploration, production and use, competition for petroleum based fuels in the world is now driving up energy prices and with it the cost of production and transportation for California's agricultural products.

WHEREAS, ensuring an ample supply of energy is necessary to sustain our food production and processing capabilities and is crucial to the economy of California and the United States, and

WHEREAS, developing alternative fuel resources can expand energy options, contain fuel prices and help improve environmental conditions, and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 2076 (Chapter 936, Statutes of 2000) requires the Energy Commission and the California Air Resources Board to develop and submit to the Legislature a strategy to reduce petroleum dependence in California, including recommendations to increase the use of non-petroleum fuels, and,

WHEREAS, in June, 2005, the Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California signed an executive order that calls for reducing the state's emissions of greenhouse gases to 2000 levels by 2010, 1990 levels by 2020 and 80 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.

WHEREAS, the use of ethanol and other biofuels is a means of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and has the significant potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, biofuels can serve as a transition fuel and a renewable source of hydrogen for the hydrogen highway, and

WHEREAS, the introduction of ethanol products in 2004 as a supplement to gasoline replacing MTBE has eliminated the environmental risks associated with MTBE and has resulted in cleaner water in California, and

WHEREAS, biofuels including ethanol, biodiesel, and biomethane can be produced with agricultural and urban biomass resources, and

WHEREAS, in 2004 California became the largest user of ethanol for fuel in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of ethanol used in California is imported from the Midwest.

WHEREAS, representatives of E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), Union of Concerned Scientists, Sustainable Conservation, CalStart and other environmental groups have encouraged the agricultural production of biofuels in California to help preserve the California agricultural industry, improve the environment and achieve energy security, and

WHEREAS, California is very well positioned to be a leader in the biofuels arena because of the strong research capability in its higher education system, its track record in translating research into new and enhanced technologies and its vibrant productive agriculture sector.

WHEREAS, the new federal energy legislation which eliminates the oxygenate requirement creates uncertainties for the market, and

WHEREAS, the lack of an integrated set of policies on the part of the state's regulatory agencies creates further uncertainties for the market, and

WHEREAS, a long-term policy path and expanded research that supports the use of fossil fuel alternatives can make bio fuels among the cutting-edge technologies California can harness, and

WHEREAS, providing fuel regulations that give refiners and marketers greater flexibility to use more biofuels can significantly reduce the consumption of fossil fuel, and

WHEREAS, vehicle engines are already available in the marketplace that can fully utilize various fuel blends, and

WHEREAS, encouraging a policy of distributed energy production and expanding production of biofuels in California can enhance rural communities and the state economy overall by keeping fuel production revenues in the state,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the California State Board of Food and Agriculture urges the Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California, to adopt a long term "Biofuels Policy" regarding the production and use of biofules that:

1) Provides a uniform regulatory standard accommodating and encouraging increasing amounts of biofuels production and consumption.
2) Institutes a "No-Backsliding" on CO2 in any present or future fuel regulations.
3) Sets a floor for biofuel consumption for California equal to current use.
4) Encourages all cars to be "flex fuel" and able to run on any combination of gasoline or biofuel such as they do in Brazil.

Subscribed
Helen Lopez, Executive Director