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November 4, 2011

Commissioner Carla Peterman, Presiding Member
Commissioner James Boyd, Vice Chair
California Energy Commission, Renewables Committee
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: RPS Rules – Renewable Natural Gas

Dear Commissioners Peterman and Boyd,

I have been informed that the California Energy Commission is considering reclassifying renewable natural gas (RNG) from its current treatment as a category-one eligible resource. As a supporter of the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Senate Bill 2X, this potential change is both surprising and troubling.

Biomethane's clean, ultra-low carbon transportation fuel makes the RNG industry a critical component to meeting our ambitious RPS goals. Growing the industry in California requires predictability on the part of state regulators to garner long-term investment. Contrarily, switching RNG to category-three treatment would frustrate the economic incentive to make production and use of RNG economically feasible, potentially ending its production and use in California.

I am not aware of any evidence or legal interpretation that suggests SB 2X called for the Commission to change biogas's RPS classification. But if such a change is merited, I respectfully request the question be put before the Legislature, where policy modifications of substantial nature ought to take place.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff with any information or updates that may be pertinent to this matter.

Sincerely,

CM Smyth

CAMERON M. SMYTH
Assemblyman, 38th District

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