The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor

State of California

State Capitol Building

Sacramento CA 95814

 Re: California’s Biomass Industry Needs Your Support

Dear Governor Brown [or other elected official]:

I am writing to urge your support for Assembly Bill 590 (Dahle/Salas), which provides biomass plants with a small portion of the greenhouse gas reduction funds. One of the plants that would benefit from this bill is located in my local community of [city/county/region].

The Delano Covanta plant is one of the largest private employers in the region. The plant employs 50 people and supports more than 150 dedicated indirect jobs used in gathering the fuel supply. The biomass plant spends more than $4.5 million in benefits and salaries. The plant also has annual expenditures in excess of $25 million and contributes more than $400 thousand in annual state and local taxes.

Aside from the economic factors, the Delano Covanta plant has significant environmental benefits. The plant uses nearly 300,000 tons of agricultural residues per year from local orchard removals, tree trimmings and prunings and converts it to carbon neutral, renewable energy. Without the plant, the region would be even more dependent upon natural gas for power. What’s more, the farms in the region would revert back to open burning to dispose of the biomass material, which will only exacerbate the existing air quality problems in Kern County.

While biomass plants provide economic and environmental benefits, the biomass plants are not compensated for those benefits. Assembly Bill 590 does just that. The amount of the state benefit roughly corresponds to the fuel cost contribution of power generation from biomass. Biomass plants, like Delano Covanta, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy, which should be a goal of these funds. For me, it ensures that another large private employer keeps its doors open and employs my friends and neighbors.

It is for these reasons that I humbly request that you support Assembly Bill 590 and biomass plants in the state.

Sincerely,

cc: Cliff Rechtschaffen, Senior Advisor, Office of the Governor

Martha Guzman-Aceves, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor