

## California Biomass Energy Alliance (“CBEA”) Legislative Priorities 2019

The extreme natural events of 2017 and 2018 and the cascading impacts to people, our utility infrastructure and our natural environment underscore the necessity to mitigate the effects of and adapt to climate change.

While California's Legislature has been at the forefront in terms of making changes in how we do business and recognizing the need to reduce our carbon footprint, we need to acknowledge the impact severe wildfires play in pollution. We need to recognize the important role of proactive management of our forests in reducing severe wildfire activity or risk losing the gains we have made thus far.

Biomass power generation can play a key role in mitigating wildfire risk, provides for the environmentally beneficial solution to California's waste management needs, reduces pollution, and helps achieve regional economic goals. CBEA supports the following:

### Utilize California's Biomass Resources

- California lacks a comprehensive state biomass organics policy. A comprehensive policy should consider the diverse types of biomass, such as agricultural waste, municipal waste and forest residue. The statewide policy that provides direction and vision will give private industry something to look at to inform investment decisions. Work with Assembly Aguiar-Curry to develop AB 144 into a comprehensive plan identifying the statewide health, wildfire, and waste disposal benefits of bioenergy and propose a framework for reliable funding to maximize California's goals in these areas.
- Support the use of Cap and Trade Auction Revenue (GGRF) for CalFire (\$200 million) and CalRecycle (\$25 million) for cost effective GHG emissions reducing projects which divert excess organics out of the landfills, fields and forests.
- Support AB 257 (Mathis) which would create a pilot program for rural counties to offer collection days for the removal of localized excess woody biomass material for use in biomass plants.
- Support AB 343 (Patterson) would require the development of a fuel's transportation program using GGRFs for grants to offset the costs of transporting fuels to a biomass energy facility.

### Continued Focus on Wildfire Risk Reduction

- Support SB 515 (Caballero) which would expand the definition of High Hazard Zones for biomass facilities with BioRAM contracts. Broadening the High Hazard Zone definition to better address wildfire risk and forest health most effectively uses the California's BioRAM facilities.

### Improve Renewable Portfolio Standard Procurement

- Support AB 56 (E Garcia) which would establish a centralized electricity procurement entity to fill-in the gaps created by the procurement practices of state's three largest electrical corporations which have not procured new renewable energy resources since 2015. The intent is to ensure the state a diverse and balanced portfolio of resources needed to ensure a reliable electricity and secure environmental benefits these resources provide.
- Support a balanced RPS that addresses the overreliance on intermittence resources.