TRUCKING LETTER #1

The Honorable Brian Dahle

California State Assembly

State Capitol Building

Sacramento CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Dahle

I am writing to support your bill, AB 590 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].

As Californians whose jobs depend on the biomass energy industry, we urge your support for Assembly Bill 590 (Dahle) to ensure that this important resource remains healthy and continues producing environmentally sound, renewable electricity for years to come.

The biomass industry employs thousands of people who operate the plants, gather, transport and process millions of tons of wood waste, and drive the trucks that bring processed material to the plants to generate reliable baseline electric power for the people of our state. Many of the jobs the biomass plants create around the state sustain rural and economically challenged communities climb out of economic hard times. In many cases, the biomass plants are one of the largest employers in the regions where they operate.

Located in 20 counties, the plants employ 500 plant operations workers and another 2,000 people who gather, process and transport millions of tons of waste wood a year as fuel for the plants. The industry keeps scores of truck drivers on the road collecting and delivering processed wood for conversion into electricity – enough to power 700,000 homes. The workers who fill the trucks gather and process a wide range of wood materials. They help farmers by removing tons of agricultural waste like orchard scrap and rice hulls. They divert more than 7.5 million tons of wood from the state’s waste stream that otherwise clog landfills and feed huge open burn piles pouring pollutants into the air. They assist in improving forest health, preservation and fire protection by removing timber harvest remnants and undergrowth.

In the end, the people who make the biomass industry work in California help the economies of local communities, reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, serve the environment and create reliable energy that moves the state toward its goal of generating 33 percent of its electric power from renewable sources by 2020.

Now the industry we work for needs a hand from the state. AB 590 makes it possible for the biomass industry to receive some of the funds generated by the sale of carbon credits under the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program. This would help maintain the current level of biomass energy production and allow some shuttered plants to reopen in strategic areas of the state.

We are proud to work for an industry like biomass energy because it makes a difference in the quality of life not only for us and our families, but also for hundreds of thousands of people who benefit from the environmentally responsible energy our plants produce.

Thank you for introducing AB 590 to keep us rolling.

Sincerely,