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May 20, 2020

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 3163 (Salas)

Dear Assembly Member Fletcher:

The California Hydrogen Business Council¹ (CHBC) is proud to support SB 3163, which would expand the definition of biogas to include the non-combustion thermal conversion of eligible biomass.

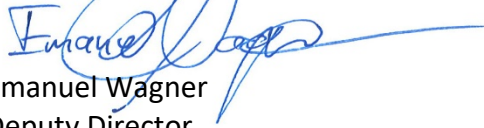
This will support an important new pathway to creating renewable hydrogen, which the only gas that emits zero greenhouse gas over its lifecycle is a key enabler of California’s climate goals. Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory recently found in their report *Getting to Neutral* that gasification of woody biomass is the most cost-effective way to achieve the state’s goal to achieve negative greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewable hydrogen can also help address the triple threat of COVID 19, wildfire, and power outages due to the threat of wildfires and other natural disasters. When paired with stationary fuel cells, renewable hydrogen can provide the 24/7/365 zero greenhouse gas and zero criteria air emissions power generation in all weather conditions. In transportation applications, hydrogen fuel cells eliminate public health threats from pollutions emitted by cars and medium and heavy duty vehicles, which putting people at greater risk of death by COVID-19. Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles furthermore help ensure the transition to zero emissions vehicles is equitable, since it a more convenient option for many low income Californians, many if not most of whom cannot easily plug in at home.

¹ The CHBC is comprised of over 100 companies and agencies involved in the business of hydrogen. Our mission is to advance the commercialization of hydrogen in the energy sector, including transportation, goods movement, and stationary power systems to reduce emissions and dependence on oil. The views expressed in these comments are those of the CHBC, and do not necessarily reflect the views of all of the individual CHBC member companies. Members are listed here: www.californiahydrogen.org/aboutus/chbc-members/

The CHBC appreciates your introducing this important piece of legislation and welcomes any questions you may have.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Emanuel Wagner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Emanuel Wagner
Deputy Director
California Hydrogen Business Council