



SWANA[®]
 SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
 of North America

CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS

FOUNDING

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LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

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June 18, 2015

The Honorable Ben Hueso
 Chair, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
 State Capitol, Room 4035
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 577 (Bonilla) – Cap and Trade Revenue: Biogas Production SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hueso,

The California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) represent much of the publicly-owned and -operated solid waste management infrastructure in the state and the local governments responsible for implementing waste diversion and recycling programs. The SWANA Legislative Task Force (LTF) represents the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

The SWANA LTF is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 577**, which would allocate up to \$13 million in Cap and Trade funds for biogas infrastructure and purification technology and infrastructure upgrades. Additionally, the bill ensures that biogas purity and safety standards are met and are not a deterrent to its use.

Biogas generated as a natural byproduct of anaerobic digestion of biodegradable organic matter can be used to produce electricity or as an alternative to fossil fuels used in transportation. According to the Bioenergy Association of California, up to 10% of California’s gas demand could be replaced with biogas – the equivalent of 7000 megawatts of renewable power. AB 577 is a vital component of ensuring that California’s promising biogas marketplace, and the associated renewable power and emission reduction benefits, are realized.

In addition to the benefits listed above, a vibrant biogas marketplace will provide local jurisdictions with a potential revenue source that can support important recycling and composting programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help California meet its goal of diverting 75% of all solid waste through source reduction, recycling, and composting.

For these reasons the SWANA LTF is pleased to support AB 577.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
 SWANA Legislative Advocate

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Communications
 The Honorable Susan Bonilla, 14th Assembly District