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May 11, 2016

The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2313 (Williams) – Renewable natural gas: monetary incentive program for biomethane projects – SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Gonzalez,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (over 8,000 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste. SWANA's California Legislative Task Force (LTF) is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

AB 1900 (Chapter 602, Statutes of 2012) set out to promote and facilitate pipeline biogas development. After that legislation was enacted, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted a ratepayer funded program to offset costs to gas producers of connecting to utility pipelines. That program is capped at a total of \$40 million, with a per project cap of \$1.5 million.

Since the new standards were adopted, not one new biogas project has applied for funding, as the current cap does not reflect the actual cost to interconnect. SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 2313**, which would revise the existing financial incentive for pipeline interconnection costs for biomethane by increasing the cap per project from \$1.5 million to \$3 million, as well as increase the incentive for dairy digester cluster projects (multiple dairies that pool their biogas at one location for purification and pipeline injection) to \$5 million. The total cap will remain at \$40 million.

**AB 2313** will effectively incentivize and accelerate biogas projects, expanding the use of the lowest carbon transportation fuel of any kind, generating jobs, and reducing pollution, catastrophic wildlife, and landfilling of organic waste. This legislation will help California meet its Short-Lived Climate Pollutant reduction, renewable energy, and low carbon goals. For these reasons and more, SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 2313**. Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer  
SWANA Legislative Advocate

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Das Williams, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District