



April 14, 2017

The Honorable Cristina Garcia  
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 164  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 655 (O'Donnell) California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program– SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Garcia,

On behalf of the California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) Legislative Task Force (LTF), I am pleased to write to you in **SUPPORT** of **AB 655 (O'Donnell)**, which would support the beneficial use of municipal solid waste.

SWANA is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (7,700 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA represents 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 LTF is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste.

**AB 655 (O'Donnell)** will classify energy produced via the transformation of municipal solid waste as renewable energy. This bill specifically applies to three existing California transformation facilities that operate, on an annual basis, at least 20% below pollutant concentration limits in the facility permit, and that have reported emissions data to the local air district for at least five years.

The state has established a 75% overall recycling goal to help manage the waste stream. While the State is striving to achieve this goal, an estimated 20 million tons of waste will still require management in 2020. Transformation or thermal resource recovery complements recycling efforts by diverting waste from landfills. This technology is widely recognized as a tool that can help mitigate climate change impacts by providing a net reduction in methane emissions associated with landfilling, a key short lived climate pollutant, while also producing electricity from waste, thereby displacing the use of fossil fuels for generating electricity.

Including transformation facilities in the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in California will allow these transformation facilities to be economically competitive. **AB 655 (O'Donnell)** recognizes the environmental benefits of municipal transformation facilities, such as providing a means of disposing of special and difficult-to-manage wastes, including confiscated narcotics and household pharmaceutical wastes collected in takeback programs. This bill is consistent with the state's climate change and landfill diversion goals and commitment to reducing GHG emissions and methane gas production.

For these reasons and more, the SWANA LTF is pleased to **SUPPORT AB 655 (O'Donnell)**. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer  
Partner  
Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

Jason Schmelzer and Melissa Immel

Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc. • 1415 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 446-4656 • Fax (916) 446-4318

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, 70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

Jason Schmelzer and Melissa Immel

Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc. • 1415 L Street, Suite 1000, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 446-4656 • Fax (916) 446-4318