



*Hydrogen Means Business in California!*

June 12, 2020

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

**RE: Support for AB 3163 (Salas)**

Dear Chair Hueso:


The California Hydrogen Business Council<sup>1</sup> (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 legislation will support an important new pathway to creating renewable hydrogen, which is the only gas that emits zero greenhouse gas over its lifecycle and 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 the public health threats posed by pollution emitted by cars, medium and heavy duty vehicles, which are putting people at greater risk of health impacts and death by COVID-19. Hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles furthermore help ensure the transition to zero emission vehicles is equitable, since it is a more convenient option for many low income Californians, many of whom cannot easily plug in at home.

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

Best regards,

  
 William Zobel  
 Executive Director | California Hydrogen Business Council

<sup>1</sup> 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/](http://www.californiahydrogen.org/aboutus/chbc-members/)