



March 27, 2024

The Honorable Isaac Bryan, Chair
Natural Resources Committee
California State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95184

Re: Support for AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry)

Dear Chair Bryan:

We are writing on behalf of the undersigned organizations, agencies and companies to urge the Assembly Natural Resources Committee to pass AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry), an important bill to accelerate progress in reducing methane emissions and meeting the requirements of SB 1383 (Lara, 2016), the state's Short-Lived Climate Super Pollutant legislation.

AB 2514 is focused on organic waste that must be diverted from landfills to reduce methane emissions, as required by SB 1383. Climate scientists agree that methane reduction is the most urgent step the world can take to address climate change because it benefits the climate almost immediately, unlike fossil fuel reductions that take decades

to begin to benefit the climate.¹ In California, the solid waste sector is the second largest source of methane emissions after dairies and other livestock, so reducing the landfilling of organic waste is an urgent step to mitigate climate change.²

According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, converting diverted organic waste to energy and compost is also one of the most cost-effective climate investments, costing about one-fifth the average price of other carbon reductions.³ The California Air Resources Board has also found repeatedly that investments in diverted organic waste projects is one of the two most cost-effective climate investments the state has made.⁴ Converting diverted organic waste to energy and organic soil amendments also provides other benefits including a reduction in fossil fuels used for energy and fertilizer production, reduction in air pollution, and creation of good jobs and economic development.

AB 2514 will accelerate these important benefits in three ways:

- The bill codifies a definition of pyrolysis, which is used several times in statute but never defined, so that the line between pyrolysis – a highly regulated technology – and other conversion technologies is clear.
- The bill directs CalRecycle to add two additional procurement products – hydrogen and pipeline biomethane – generated from diverted organic waste that local governments can procure to comply with SB 1383. The California Air Resources Board has called for increases in both biomethane and renewable hydrogen to help decarbonize California's energy sector,⁵ so adding these procurement products will help meet the landfill diversion requirements of SB 1383 and help to meet California's clean energy and decarbonization goals.
- The bill directs CalRecycle to prioritize any incentive funding for the projects that provide the greatest carbon reductions, further accelerating progress in achieving California's climate goals.

¹ See, United Nations Environment Program, <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/global-assessment-urgent-steps-must-be-taken-reduce-methane>. See also, *Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy*, adopted by the California Air Resources Board, March 2017, at page 1.

² California Air Resources Board, *Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy*, March 2017, at page 56.

³ Legislative Analyst's Office, *Administration's Cap-and-Trade Report Provides New Information, Raises Issues for Consideration*, submitted to Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3, April 2016.

⁴ California Air Resources Board, *California Climate Investments 2022 Mid-Year Data Update*, September 2022. ARB's 2021 Annual Report to the Legislature on California's Climate Investments also showed that investments in organic waste to energy were the most cost-effective of all the state's climate investments. See Table 2, pages 17-18.

⁵ California Air Resources Board, *2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality*, adopted November 16, 2022, at page 9.

AB 2514 would enact sensible, cost-effective measures to accelerate California's progress in reducing methane emissions and producing beneficial products in place of landfilling organic waste.

For all these reasons, we urge the Committee to pass AB 2514.

Sincerely,

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Bioenergy Association of California

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California Hydrogen Business Council

Teresa Cooke
California Hydrogen Coalition

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