



Forest Landowners OF CALIFORNIA

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April 12, 2017

The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair
Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee
State Capitol Building Room 5136
Sacramento CA 95814

The Honorable Christina Garcia, Chair
Assembly Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol Building Room 2013
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: AB 920 Support

Dear Chairs:

Forest Landowners of California (FLC) is writing today to urge your support of AB 920 (Aguiar-Curry). AB 920 will help meet California's climate goals and clean energy needs by encouraging the use and development of baseload renewable energy as part of a diverse portfolio of renewable energy resources. Of interest to FLC is the encouragement of the biomass sources for energy production and enhancement of biomass infrastructure as a stabilizing source of energy to the State's power grid.

As a statewide organization of nonindustrial forest landowners, FLC represents small forest owners in California who are actively managing their lands for beneficial uses including timber, water, and wildlife habitat. Our membership owns and manages more than 350,000 acres of private timberland in all regions of California. The loss of traditional infrastructure facilities, such as biomass plants, over the past three decades has limited the opportunity for many landowners to efficiently improve forest fuels management and increase tree growth through thinning that lead to added carbon sequestration.

California is the leader in the fight against climate change. Forest fuels reduction and control of catastrophic wildland fire is a major component of the State's carbon emission reduction strategy. If extensively implemented, biomass energy production can be a controlling factor in reducing forest fuels and fire severity. At the heart of the matter is California's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which established the framework for increasing the use of renewable energy by requiring the state's load-serving entities (LSEs) to obtain a percentage for each point threshold of their energy from defined renewable sources.

The RPS has been successful in encouraging wind and solar power production, but has resulted in little to no development of other baseload renewable sources, such as biomass and biofuels, that can be used to complement the variable output of wind and solar due to weather and daylight limitations. The result is a shortfall of reliable renewable energy that is projected to grow in future years as the RPS requirements increase. AB 920 can create opportunities for remaining biomass operating facilities and hopefully encouraged the development of other new baseload renewables, ensuring we can meet our electricity demands with a mix of power that includes reliable and predictable renewable resources.

Development of additional baseload resources such as biomass across the forested regions of the state has additional environmental and economic benefits, particularly for economically and environmentally disadvantaged rural communities where many baseload facilities are or would be located. These benefits include improved air and water quality, helping the state meet its organics diversion goals, healthier forests, high-paying jobs, and tax revenue for mostly rural local governments.

It is for this reason, and others, that FLC encourages you to vote **YES on AB 920**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Charll K Stoneman, Monument Mountain Tree Farm
President, Forest Landowners of California

cc: The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Members of the Assembly Utilities and Energy Committee
Members of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee