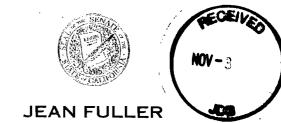
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California State Senate



SENATOR, EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES: ENERGY, UTILITIES & COMMUNICATIONS VICE CHAIR

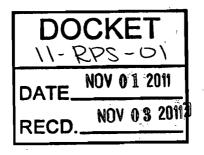
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOURCES. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION

GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

NATURAL RESOURCES &

WATER RULES



November 1, 2011

Commissioner Carla Peterman, Presiding Member California Energy Commission, Renewables Committee 1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Commission Treatment of Biomethane under RPS Re:

٦. Dear Commissioner Peterman:

It has come to my attention that the Energy Commission is considering changing the current eligibility of biomethane (renewable natural gas) for purposes of California's RPS. As an elected representative and advocate for my constituents, California ratepayers, this news troubles me.

Many of California's publicly-owned utilities have entered, and/ or are about to enter, long term contracts for biomethane. They have taken this action in reliance on the Commission's interpretation of the State's RPS law to present. Your longstanding interpretation and treatment of biomethane as a category-one eligible resource remains correct. Public-utility contracts based on this interpretation have helped ensure stability, will keep electricity rates low for all Californians and should not be changed.

Such dramatic action would be a major policy shift and therefore should be thoroughly vetted by the State Legislature. Thus far, even through our extensive debate over last year's RPS legislation, that has not happened. I respectfully urge your restraint. Please maintain the current treatment of biomethane and continue your efforts to keep my constituents' electricity bills from rising any further.

Sincerely,

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Senator, 18th District

Commissioner James Boyd, Vice Chair cc: