

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

April 25, 2012

Robert Weisenmiller
Chairman
1516 Ninth Street, MS-33
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Weisenmiller:

I write to request your support of existing California biorefineries and their efforts to transition to and aggressively integrate next-generation feedstocks and technologies into existing biorefinery processes.

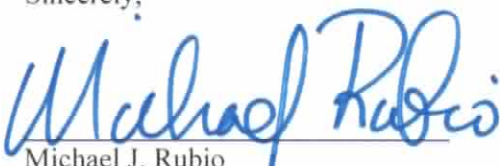
As you are aware, California-based biofuel producers have invested over \$500 million resulting in the creation of over 2,000 jobs in the Central Valley and providing the lowest carbon fuel commercially available in the United States. It is important that state policy remain consistent as we accelerate our move to lower carbon fuel production. I have spoken to a number of different technology providers of next generation fuels, as well as the owners of the existing biorefineries, and all agree that the existing California plants offer us the best opportunity to commercialize next-generation technologies.

The California Energy Commission is leading this transition and we believe that you can play an even greater role in this time of high fuel prices. Your administration of the current California Ethanol Producer Incentive Program (CEPIP) provides that funds are used when low carbon fuel is produced and only in times of market stress. When market conditions are superior, the funds are paid back to the state. This program is an outstanding model for all AB 118 funded projects as it allows both the state and participants to share in the risk and reward.

The California State Legislature is currently moving forward with legislation that authorizes CEPIP support for next-generation feedstocks. This bill passed the Assembly 72-3 and is now in the Senate. This is certainly the right approach and we support the CEPIP program. We ask for your assistance to provide full funding for the 2012 investment plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions. We look forward to working with you on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Rubio
State Senator
Sixteenth District