



February 19, 2026

The Honorable Diane Papan
1021 O Street, Suite 4220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1849 (Papan) Decarbonized gaseous fuels – Sponsor/Support

Dear Assemblymember Papan,

On behalf of the Bioenergy Association of California and the California Hydrogen Business Council, we are pleased to sponsor your AB 1849 (Papan), which establishes a thoughtful framework to assess and accelerate the role of decarbonized gaseous fuels in California's transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

The Bioenergy Association of California (BAC) represents about 85 public agencies, private companies, Tribes, utilities, community groups and research institutions working to promote sustainable bioenergy development in California. The California Hydrogen Business Council (CHBC) is the largest and longest-established advocate for the hydrogen and fuel cell industry in Sacramento representing more than 90 companies, agencies, and organizations committed to advancing hydrogen solutions that decarbonize California and improve air quality. Hydrogen and biogas/biomethane are critical to achieving California's climate, air quality and reliability objectives. Our organizations represent developers, technology providers, project operators, utilities, waste managers, and end users actively investing in in-state hydrogen and bioenergy production to decarbonize industrial, transportation, and reliability applications that cannot be served by electrification alone.

AB 1849 appropriately recognizes that California's current policy framework lacks a comprehensive, cross-sector assessment of decarbonized gaseous fuel demand. Hard-to-electrify sectors — including high-heat industrial processes, dispatchable electricity generation, heavy-duty transportation, aviation and marine fuels, and long-duration energy storage — require energy-dense, low-carbon molecules. Hydrogen and renewable gaseous fuels produced from organic waste streams are among the few scalable options capable of generating carbon negative emissions needed to reach carbon neutrality and also needed to maintain electricity reliability. The bill's directive to quantify sector-specific fuel needs and electricity reliability requirements is essential to infrastructure planning, market development, and capital investment.

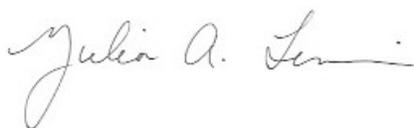
The performance-based, technology-neutral structure required under Section 43875.1 is especially important. By establishing incentives based on lifecycle carbon intensity rather than prescribing specific technologies, the bill aligns with established regulatory frameworks such as fuel carbon accounting and encourages continuous improvement in hydrogen and bioenergy production pathways, renewable gas upgrading, carbon capture integration, and feedstock optimization. This approach ensures that both electrolytic hydrogen powered by renewable electricity and bioenergy systems utilizing organic waste provide maximum benefits for the climate, the environment and the circular economy.

The findings regarding wildfire mitigation, landfill diversion, and methane reduction are not ancillary benefits — they are integral to the technical justification for the policy. Bioenergy facilities convert high-risk biomass and organic waste into dispatchable, low-carbon fuels, reducing open burning, landfill methane generation, and criteria pollutant emissions from diesel alternatives. Similarly, hydrogen production enables seasonal storage of curtailed renewable electricity and provides firm, zero-carbon capacity that complements intermittent generation.

California cannot meet its climate goals without a significant increase in production of low carbon and carbon negative gaseous fuels. A data-driven assessment of that need and recommendations for a performance-based program to accelerate deployment of these fuels will support grid reliability, reduce criteria pollutants, and create durable, well-paying jobs in rural and industrial regions.

For these reasons, we pleased to sponsor and strongly support AB 1849 (Papan). Should you have any questions, please reach out to Matt Klopenstein at matt@summitadvocacy.com or Jennifer Roe at jroe@capitoladvocacy.com. We look forward to working with your office and the Legislature to ensure the assessment and resulting policy framework achieve their intended outcomes.

Sincerely,



Julia Levin
Executive Director
Bioenergy Association of California



Katrina Fritz
President & CEO
California Hydrogen Business Council