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April 7, 2023

The Honorable Luz Rivas
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1021 O Street, Room 4250
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 625 (Aguiar-Curry) – Support

Dear Assemblymember Rivas,

On behalf of Valley Clean Energy (VCE), a community choice aggregation (CCA) program serving Yolo County, I write to express our support of AB 625 (Aguiar-Curry) specifically and for the proposed provision to extend the sunset date of the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) program as proposed in Public Utilities Code Section 399.20(f)(6). We have no position at this time on the other policies proposed in AB 625.

VCE is the not-for-profit public electricity provider serving over 120,000 customers in unincorporated Yolo County and the cities of Woodland, Davis, and Winters. As a locally governed public entity we are focused on providing cost effective clean electricity while improving the communities we serve through local reinvestment of our revenues.

In 2021, AB 843 (Aguiar-Curry) successfully gave community choice aggregation (CCA) providers access to the BioMAT program. However, as of March of 2023, this legislation has yet to be implemented by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Since the regulations have a sunset date of December 31, 2025, this would give CCAs less than three years to negotiate and sign contracts. Extending the sunset date until the 250 MWs have been procured would provide CCAs ample time to access AB 843 and is also consistent with the legislation that created the BioMAT program under SB 1122 (Statutes of 2012).

Biomass is a baseload, renewable source of energy that contributes to grid reliability all year round. In addition, biomass is also one of only a few sources of energy that qualifies as clean firm resource under CPUC Decision 21-06-035 (also referred to as the mid-term reliability (MTR) decision). Under the MTR Decision, at least 1,000 MWs of new net qualifying capacity must be obtained from clean firm resources, and the MTR Decision specifically mentions biomass and geothermal energy as potential resources for meeting this category.



We appreciate Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry's leadership on this issue, and we are pleased to support the extension of the BioMAT program as the bill proposes. We respectfully request your aye vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Sears", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mitch Sears
Executive Officer
Valley Clean Energy

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