

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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The Honorable Marie Alvarado-Gil
Legislative Office Building
1021 O Street, Room 7240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Alvarado-Gil:

El Dorado County would like to express its support of SB 488, which would expand the Bioenergy Renewable Auction Mechanism (BioRAM) program to community choice aggregation (CCA) organizations.

El Dorado County understands the many benefits of biomass, beyond just the energy benefits. The Board of Supervisors has established a biomass ad hoc committee to assist with supporting and facilitating biomass utilization projects throughout the County to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires, protect public health and safety, improve forest and watershed health, promote renewable energy, improve air quality and stimulate job creation. Several biomass utilization projects are advancing, including a small-scale wood utilization and bioenergy project at a school district, a larger bioenergy project and wood products campus at former sawmill site, and a small-scale combined heat and power bioenergy project at a Material Recovery Facility.

The passage of SB 488 will support existing biomass facilities, which is good for the whole industry. This bill is consistent with the Legislature's intent when it passed Senate Bill (SB) 859 that mandated the procurement of 125 MWs of biomass energy.

CCA ratepayers are already paying for the BioRAM program, as the costs of any contract procured to satisfy the requirements under SB 859 are recoverable from all customers on a nonbypassable basis. This bill would simply authorize CCAs to participate in this existing program, in the same way AB 843 (Aguiar-Curry, Statutes of 2021) allowed CCAs to participate in the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) program.

El Dorado County appreciates your action on this important issue. Please contact our Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Tiffany Schmid, at tiffany.schmid@edcgov.us, if we can be of any assistance in your efforts to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Wendy Thomas, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors