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California State Assembly
Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
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Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of CleanTECH San Diego, I would like to extend support for SB 939 (Wright). SB 939 reaffirms the method for handling Investor Owned Utility (IOU) gas public purpose program funds, established in AB 1002 (Wright, Ch. 932, Statutes of 2000), to improve efficiency, reduce administrative costs, and ensure that IOU ratepayer-provided funds are utilized for their intended purposes.

As you know, Governor Jerry Brown recently approved California's budget, which includes a provision that allows the Treasurer to divert \$155 million from the Gas Consumption Surcharge (GSC) Fund to the state's General Fund. This reallocation of natural gas funds has already had a significant impact on IOU EE programs.

While ensuring the funding of important public purpose programs and protecting green jobs, SB 939 also maintains the original intent of AB 1002 – to ensure that gas surcharge funds are established to support gas public purpose programs, such as low-income energy assistance, energy efficiency, and research and development. Under SB 939, gas utility customers continue to pay their share of program costs. Specifically, SB 939:

- Protects green jobs, important to both the Administration and the Legislature;
- Ensures continued progress toward AB 32 greenhouse gas reduction goals; and
- Ensures ratepayer interests are protected by mandating GCS funds be used for the purpose of energy efficiency programs as directed by the Public Utilities Code.

CleanTECH San Diego is a nonprofit association focused on accelerating the greater San Diego region's transition to a clean energy economy. We have a broad and diverse membership that includes the private sector such as General Atomics, Bank of America, Sapphire Energy and Kyocera Solar as well as local governments, nongovernmental agencies and universities and research institutes such as UC San Diego, San Diego State University and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. We are intensely interested in the economic impacts of the clean technology sector on our region and are already seeing significant impacts of the industry on local company creation and job growth. SB 939 ensures the gas public purpose program funds pay for the programs they were originally intended for, protects green jobs and supports the attainment of California's AB 32 GHG reduction goals.

I appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Jason Anderson