April 9, 2018

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi, Acting Chair
Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
State Capitol, Room 2179
Sacramento, CA 95814


Dear Chair Muratsuchi:

On behalf of Cleantech San Diego, please accept this letter of support for AB 1970 regarding innovative, low-carbon fuels. AB 1970 would direct the California Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, CalRecycle, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that the respective funding allocated to them by the State Legislature for fuels and/or methane mitigation also focus specifically on the development of innovative, renewable, low-carbon fuels.

Cleantech San Diego is a nonprofit business organization that positions the greater San Diego region as a global leader in the cleantech economy. We support the cleantech industry by fostering collaborations across the private-public-academic landscape, leading advocacy efforts to promote cleantech priorities, and encouraging investment in the San Diego region.

California needs additional, viable, cost-effective, clean energy and transportation solutions for reducing methane, nitrogen oxide, and other greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions significantly contribute to climate change and poor air quality, impacting the health of communities throughout the state. Employing smart and innovative strategies to reduce emissions from California’s agriculture and food waste sectors can create new sources of renewable, low-carbon fuel for our state’s transportation and energy sectors, as well as further enhance economic development and air quality benefits in our most impacted communities and throughout the state.

However, the state programs utilizing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program dollars that should be supporting this innovative work have historically largely focused on first-generation alternative fuels. Over the years, this has unintentionally created a funding barrier for novel, innovative fuel development and production by California-based companies with pre-commercial technologies that can lead to potentially breakthrough fuels with meaningful market potential, as well as significant climate and air quality benefits.

By requiring a percentage of funding received by the appropriate state agencies for fuel development or methane mitigation be set aside for innovative fuel development, AB 1970 will help pave the way for ongoing technology development, which is necessary to achieve our ambitious emission reduction targets and maintain California’s recognized role as a leader in the development and deployment of innovative technology solutions to address our global challenges.

Sincerely,

Jason Anderson
President and CEO
Cleantech San Diego