



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460  
[www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)

GAIL FARBER CHAIR  
MARGARET CLARK VICE CHAIR

July 12, 2010

Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senator, Montana  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mike Crapo  
United States Senator, Idaho  
239 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Jon Testor  
United States Senator, Montana  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2604

Dear Senators:

### **SENATE BILL 3381 – CONSISTENT DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE BIOMASS**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would like to express our concerns regarding Senate Bill 3381 (S. 3381), which was introduced on May 17, 2010. We agree that there is a significant need to establish a consistent national definition of renewable biomass; however, we believe it is crucial for the bill to acknowledge the vast quantities of renewable biomass within post-recycled municipal solid waste (MSW).

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Senators Baucus, Crapo, and Testor

July 12, 2010

Page 2

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, our Country sends over 135 million tons of solid waste to landfills each year with over 50 percent of that material being organic. This represents a plentiful resource that can be utilized to significantly diversify transportation fuels and energy resources. Non-incineration technologies, such as conversion technologies capable of converting MSW into renewable energy and biofuels, have made significant strides in development over the last decade. The February 2010 edition of *BioCycle Magazine* reported that 17 European countries will be using conversion technologies to convert about 6 million tons of MSW into renewable energy. Despite these developments abroad, the United States still does not have a commercial conversion technology facility.

Jurisdictions from New York City to Los Angeles County have evaluated various conversion technologies, and concluded that these technologies can fundamentally change the way we manage MSW by diverting up to 100 percent of the waste from landfill disposal; producing significant quantities of renewable energy and biofuels from that waste; preventing emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions, that otherwise would have been produced; and most significantly, creating high-tech green collar jobs. While these jurisdictions are attempting to move forward with successful projects, streamlined regulations and consistent definitions among state statutes and federal law will further incentivize the development of these innovative technologies.

We respectfully request that the proposed legislation be amended by expanding the definition of renewable biomass to include MSW. Thank you for considering our comments on this important issue. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

TM/CS:ts

P:\epub\ENGLANTASK FORCE\Letters\SB 3381 Definitions Letter.doc

cc: U.S. Senator Dick Lugar, Indiana  
U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, South Carolina  
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski, Alaska  
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein  
Lisa Jackson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Each Member of the California Federal Legislative Delegation  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee