March 24, 2016

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair, Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1301 (Hertzberg) – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Hueso:

The California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) is pleased to support SB 1301 (Hertzberg). For 60 years, CASA has been the leading voice for public wastewater agencies on regulatory, legislative and legal issues. We are an association of local agencies, engaged in advancing the recycling of wastewater into usable water, generation of renewable energy, and other valuable resources.

SB 1301 requires that a portion of the gas sector cap and trade revenues be allocated to biogas production, alternative transportation fuels, and energy efficiency projects. These investments would maximize the greenhouse gas reductions and other benefits of gas sector cap and trade revenues by incentivizing production of biogas for the development, deployment, interconnection, and use of pipeline biogas and alternative transportation fuels.

CASA’s wastewater agencies are increasingly producing biogas that can then be converted to renewable electricity or thermal energy, pumped directly into natural gas pipelines, or converted to one of the lowest carbon intensity transportation fuels in existence. The projects funded by AB 1301, including those at wastewater facilities, would cut greenhouse gas and short-lived climate pollutant emissions, reduce harmful smog-forming and toxic air pollutants, and provide locally produced fuels as well as good jobs and economic development. The bill would also help diversify California’s fuel supply and reduce our reliance on liquid petroleum and fossil natural gas for California’s energy needs.

Wastewater agencies are and will continue to be significant partners in providing solutions to fulfill state mandates to produce 50% of the state’s energy needs from renewable sources and reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuel used in the state. Unfortunately many projects that would achieve these goals are hampered by high costs for testing and interconnection. Since biogas development provides so many shared benefits – environmental, fuel diversity, policy, and ratepayer benefits – the costs to develop this infrastructure should be shared.

For these reasons, CASA is pleased to support SB 1301.

Sincerely,

Adam D. Link
Director of Government Affairs

cc: Senator Robert Hertzberg
    Senator Jean Fuller, Vice Chair, Senate Energy Committee
    Members, Senate Energy Committee