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NATURAL RESOURCES

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California Legislature
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May 22, 2007

Clerk of the Board
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to express my support for Energy Alternative Solutions, Inc. (EASI), in their request for grant funding from the California Air Resource Board for the Alternative Fuel Incentive Program, specifically the program called "Biofuels—Startup of Small Production Facilities in California." EASI has submitted grant applications for their Gonzales facility and for their site in Watsonville.

As you may know, EASI's plant in Gonzales is 50 percent complete and is in the initial phase of testing equipment and production capabilities. Their Watsonville site is secured, and construction and engineering permits have been substantially completed. EASI's equipment manufacturers have constructed nine biodiesel facilities, using proven state-of-the-art technology that consistently produces ASTM standard biodiesel fuel.

There is an overwhelming awareness and demand by the Central Coast community for sustainable, renewable and clean alternative energy. EASI has positioned itself to help meet this growing demand. Additionally, there is every reason to believe that EASI's community-based business model will be an example used by other California communities. EASI's goal is to use recycled restaurant oil, thereby positively impacting a significant environmental waste issue.

EASI is also working with local farmers to develop oil-based crops that can be grown rotationally or as replacement crops: Fiorio Farms, in Gilroy, has planted 70 acres of safflower as a test crop. There are no other biodiesel manufacturers on the Central Coast that have either the resources or ability to achieve the goal of manufacturing a significant volume of high quality biodiesel fuel by Dec. 31, 2008.

In closing, EASI is the type of enterprise this program was designed to support. They are in a strong position to deliver the desired outcome of this grant. Please give EASI's applications every consideration for funding. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

John Laird

John Laird
Assemblymember, 27th District