December 7, 2010

Chairman Mary Nichols and Members of the Board

California Air Resources Board

1001 “I” Street

Sacramento, CA 95812

**Re: Support for Voluntary Renewable Energy Set-Aside in the Proposed California Cap-and-Trade Program**

Dear Chairman Nichols and Members of the Board:

The undersigned clean energy businesses, organizations, and environmental groups write to you in support of including a provision in the Cap and Trade Regulation to establish a Voluntary Renewable Energy Set-Aside.

We believe including such a provision will help to further stimulate innovation in renewable energy, thus promoting new businesses and job growth, as well as reducing pollution.

The proposed cap-and-trade program currently contains placeholder language indicating that a voluntary renewable energy set-aside will be part of California’s emission trading program; specifically, placeholder language that would establish a voluntary renewable set-aside account (p. A-52) and the allocation to voluntary renewable energy allowance set-asides (p. A-77). Such a mechanism will provide crucial support for the continued growth in voluntary purchases of renewable energy in California in the years ahead.

Clean energy development provides a host of co-benefits, not least putting California in a better position to meet the State’s post-2020 goals. In addition, following the WCI recommendations, renewable energy generated within California and sold into the voluntary market should be eligible for the set-aside.

We understand that the details of the mechanism will be worked out in 2011 and we look forward to continuing to work with CARB staff as they develop the details establishing the voluntary renewable set-aside account and the allocation of those allowances.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Sara Birmingham

The Solar Alliance

Jay Carlis

Renewable Energy Markets Association

Community Energy, Inc.

Kristen Eberhard

Natural Resources Defense Council

Jamie Fine

Environmental Defense Fund

Bill Magavern

Sierra Club California

Jennifer Martin

Center for Resource Solutions

Nancy Rader

California Wind Energy Association

Erin Rogers

Union of Concerned Scientists

Danielle Osborn-Mills

The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies

Polly Shaw

Suntech America