

APR 21 2009



April 16, 2009

Board Members
c/o Clerk of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comment to Proposed AB 118 Air Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Funding Plan for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Dear ARB Members:

Thank you for your work on AB 118.

The Straus Dairy was founded by my father, William Straus in 1941. In 1994, I opened the Straus Family Creamery in order to keep the family farm in agriculture and continue to protect the land through sustainable farming practices. Part of our mission is to care for our environment and community by supporting sustainable agriculture and making environmentally conscious business decisions. We also strive to educate consumers about the process of organic farming and sustainable farming practices. Our website, www.strausfamilycreamery.com provides information about how we convert the methane produced by our dairy's waste to electricity to power our dairy and electric vehicle and about our commitment to our environment through sustainable farming practices.

This letter is to convey Straus Family Creamery's support for the AQIP Funding Plan and staff recommendation to include \$1.3 million for electric agricultural work vehicles. As stated in the Funding Plan, AQIP's guiding principles for deployment projects are to: 1) attain ambient air quality standards, 2) choose projects ready for deployment, 3) modify consumer choice, and 4) consider funding needs. Allocating funds to help cover the incremental cost for 100% electric, off-road, work vehicles in agriculture supports those guidelines.

The technology (and vehicle) is now available to lower transportation-related emissions from one of the most common pieces of equipment used on farm - the ATV/utility vehicle. Providing a rebate up to \$2,500 will motivate the farming community to make the urgent leap to support cleaner and more sustainable technologies and respond to a growing consumer trend toward sustainable farming practices.

On a broader level, it will help commercialize electric drive technologies across many other applications. Straus Family Creamery strongly urges you to support and adopt staffs' recommendation for the zero-emission agricultural utility terrain vehicle rebate project at the proposed funding allocation of \$1.3 million.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Albert Straus
President