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Matthew Botill
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on the August 18, 2022, Low Carbon Fuel Standard Workshop

Dear Mr. Botill:

True North Renewable Energy (TNRE) appreciates your time in hosting the public workshop on potential regulatory revisions to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) on August 18, 2022, and the opportunity to share comments. TNRE would like to express our continued support for the LCFS as a transformational, technology-neutral and performance-based program that has helped to rapidly usher in a wide array of low carbon fuels for California's transportation market. We strongly support amending the LCFS to strengthen carbon intensity reduction targets and make additional updates to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of the program.

In particular, as you consider updating emissions factors in the program, **we strongly encourage you to update methane-related emissions factors to reflect the latest science and ensure accurate and fair accounting for methane-reducing pathways, including anaerobic digestion of organic waste.** Specifically, we ask that you:

- Update global warming potential (GWP) values for methane and other climate pollutants based on the latest science, including the most recent climate assessment from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. For methane, this would likely change the value from 25 to 27-30.¹
- Update the emissions factor from landfills based on the latest science from aerial surveys conducted by the state, with CARB's support, and other measurements.

As you know, reducing methane and other potent short-lived climate pollutants may be the single most important near-term priority for addressing climate change. Yet the program and CARB's emissions accounting currently undervalues these efforts by relying on outdated assumptions of landfill methane emissions and GWP for methane. For example, aerial surveys of methane sources pursuant to AB 1496 (Thurmond, Chapter 604, Statutes of 2015)² and CARB's Methane Hotspots Research Program show that landfills are a far greater source of methane emissions than currently assumed.³ Coupled with an outdated

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/understanding-global-warming-potentials>

² https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1496

³ For example, see: Duren, R.M., Thorpe, A.K., Foster, K.T. et al. California's methane super-emitters. *Nature* 575, 180–184 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1720-3>

representation of the GWP of methane, the LCFS significantly underestimates the climate benefits associated with alternatives to landfilling organics. The result is to discourage and undervalue climate-saving pathways like anaerobic digestion of organics diverted from landfills, which complicates efforts to meet the State's short-lived climate pollutant reduction targets under SB 1383.

Updating these values now will align with consistent legislative direction to update accounting of methane in CARB's programs, in line with the latest science. For example, AB 32 (Nunez, Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006) directs CARB to rely on the best available scientific and economic information in its climate change programs, and specifically defines "carbon dioxide equivalent" of various greenhouse gases to be based on the "best available science, including from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."⁴ Furthermore, AB 1496, which was signed into law nearly 7 years ago, directs CARB to update relevant policies and programs to reflect the latest science regarding CARB's methane hot spots monitoring and lifecycle analysis of natural gas imported into the state.⁵

We think these efforts would also align well with the Administration's focus on detecting and accurately measuring methane leaks and emissions. With ongoing development of the state's methane satellite network and recent direction from the Governor to create a Task Force to identify and address methane leaks from oil infrastructure near communities, updating methane emissions valuations and accounting for landfill methane will importantly build on California's leading efforts to tackle potent methane pollution.

Now is the time to update these emissions factors in the LCFS, in-line with the latest science and to ensure fair value for projects doing the most to address climate change in the near-term. We appreciate CARB may face additional considerations before updating these factors in the Cap-and-Trade program or for the State's inventory. However, those programs can be updated on their own appropriate timelines. Using the current LCFS amendment process to incorporate the latest scientific understanding will only enhance the program and support its continued success.

Thank you again for hosting the recent workshop and for your consideration of these comments. We again want to reiterate our support of the LCFS program, and we look forward to working with you on future changes. We remain enthusiastic about creating new, disruptive green economic growth opportunities, green jobs and continuing to lead in helping the state overachieve on its climate goals.

Sincerely,



Gary Aguinaga
President
True North Renewable Energy, LLC

⁴ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=200520060AB32

⁵ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1496