



June 21, 2012

Chairman Mary Nichols
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: CAP-AND-TRADE INVESTMENTS IN BIOCHAR FOR AGRICULTURE

Dear Chairman Nichols and the CARB Board,

As advocates for Biochar, a climate response tool and a material to benefit agriculture, we write in support of your efforts to invest cap-and-trade fee revenue in activities that help meet the objectives of AB 32. We strongly support investing a portion of the fee revenues in agricultural activities that reduce GHG emissions and actively sequester carbon. Such investments in our communities can create jobs and spur innovation.

Potential GHG emission reductions in agriculture are substantial, and sequestering biochar carbon can help. Biochar is an innovative renewable biomass energy, aids on-farm conservation measures, offsets some fossil fuel inputs, reduces biomass handling transportation emissions and sequesters carbon that builds soil. Funding carbon sequestration as part of your efforts will aid in the preservation of farmland and the institution of the family farmer. With the right policies including support for biochar, agriculture can meaningfully reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, sequester significant volumes of carbon, and be a net positive contributor to the goals of AB 32.

Cap and trade revenue should go towards agricultural research and development, especially for the production and use of biochar carbon. Suitable financial incentives

can support climate friendly agricultural practices that sequester carbon while providing environmental and health benefits, such as improved air and water quality.

The climate solutions that California agriculture has to offer can be realized with investments that overcome barriers for innovative producers who achieve real GHG emission reductions and sequester significant volumes of carbon. The sooner this potential is recognized and unleashed, the greater the ability of the state's agricultural sector to provide needed climate solutions.

We strongly encourage you to include AB 32 investments in sustainable agriculture and carbon sequestration through the use of biochar in your investment plan for cap and trade revenue.

Sincerely,

Raymund Gallian

Raymund Gallian
Founder and Chief Biochar Advocate
Sonoma Biochar Initiative
Hosting the 2012 National Biochar Conference at Sonoma State University, July 29 to Aug 1.

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