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California Resource Recovery Association

April 21, 2009

Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes, Chair
Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 222 (Adams) Conversion Technologies and Biorefineries – Strong Opposition

Dear Assembly Member Fuentes:

We urge you to vote NO on Assembly Bill 222 (Adams) when it is heard in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. This measure by developers of so-called 'conversion technologies' would redefine state law to provide an undeserved competitive advantage for certain waste-to-energy technologies by counting them as recycling under the state's 50% waste reduction and recycling mandate.

AB 222 would eliminate the currently clear statutory line between disposal and recycling by removing conversion technologies from the definition of "transformation". This would grant full recycling credit to any technology that meets the proposed definition of biorefinery, and represents a significant departure from current policy.

CRRA maintains that the one-way disposal of resources to produce energy does not constitute recycling, regardless of whether it is via mass-burn incinerators, landfill gas recovery systems, or high-temperature conversion technologies.

Granting diversion credit to the technologies cited in AB 222 would likely result in the displacement of the proven, low-cost recycling and composting infrastructure that have been and continue to be the backbone of local governments' successful efforts to achieve and surpass the 50% mandate.

We urge you to vote NO on AB 222.

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA

Cc: Members, Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee
Assembly Member Anthony Adams
Assembly Member Fiona Ma

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