

FEATHER RIVER AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
MEMORANDUM  
06/06/2022

TO: FRAQMD BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FROM: Christopher D. Brown, AICP, APCO  
SUBJECT: Approve Letter of Support for AB 2878 relating Biomass in California

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve and authorize the chair to sign the attached letter of support for AB 2878

**BACKGROUND:**

The open burning of vegetation not only degrades air quality in local communities it is also a waste of a resource which could be used to generate electricity for local communities. AB 2878 is a compressive effort to improve the productive use of biomass in California.

AB 2878 does the following (March 24<sup>th</sup> amended version) –

- 1.) Creates a Forest Waste Biomass Utilization Program under the Board of Forestry.
- 2.) Requires the Public Utilities Commission to develop a plan to facilitate the use of Forest Biomass, including biogas derived from forest waste.
- 3.) Extends the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tarff through 2030 which requires utilities to purchase biomass generated power.
- 4.) Requires ARB to include discussions of biomass in the next AB 32 Scoping plan update.
- 5.) Requires the Energy Commission to prepare a biennial assessment of biomass energy.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact on the District

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Draft Letter of Support AB 2878



Serving Sutter and Yuba Counties

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**Christopher D. Brown, AICP**  
Air Pollution Control Officer

June 6, 2022

The Honorable Luz Rivas, Chair  
Natural Resources Committee  
California State Assembly

**RE: Support for AB 2878 (Aguiar-Curry) on Forest Waste Biomass Utilization**

Dear Chair Rivas:

The Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) strongly supports AB 2878 (Aguiar-Curry) that will focus the State's attention on finding pathways for the utilization of California's forest waste biomass. There are many state funded efforts to promote forest thinning for wildfire reduction and forest restoration, but most of the thinned material is currently piled and burned, which can have negative smoke impacts on our constituents, or it is left to decay, which emits methane and can even sometimes create a new fire threat. Reducing forest biomass waste is a critical issue for our overall wildfire reduction strategy.

AB 2878 codifies several important items including the definition of forest biomass, and the implementation of the Forest Biomass Utilization Plan that was adopted by the Board of Forestry in November of 2020. The Bill also directs the states Forest Resiliency Task Force to work on these issues, and it will also integrate the state's *Forest Carbon Plan* into CARB's future activities on forest issues and also directs the CPUC, the CEC and ARB to take certain actions that will help facilitate the utilization of biomass. These activities will create and support pathways that will help California convert more of that forest waste to beneficial end uses such as bioenergy and finished wood products. Doing so will reduce climate and air pollution while building jobs, economic development and community resilience in rural forested regions of the state.

According to the Board of Forestry, state requirements to remove forest fuels on one million acres per year will lead to 10 to 15 million bone dry tons of forest waste biomass annually. Urgent action is needed so that we have a cohesive strategy at the State level, and this Bill goes a long way towards success.

Sincerely

Lakhvir S. Ghag  
FRAQMD Board Chair