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Committee Secretariat
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

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Submission from the Bioenergy Association

Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

The Bioenergy Association supports the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill.

The Bioenergy Association represents a significant portion of owners of biomass fueled heat plant, biomass fuel producers and suppliers, waste-to-biogas consultants, researchers and equipment/appliance suppliers across New Zealand. It has members who have an interest in policies relating to the utilisation of biomass and waste for the production of energy; reduction of emissions to air in communities from both residential and commercial/industrial scale heating applications, and from decomposition of waste; and wise use of our renewable natural biomass resources for the betterment of communities. Residual organic waste is considered to be a renewable biomass resource.

The Association has Interest Groups whose members manage the Association's specific technical matters relating to the biomass energy via combustion and gasification, waste-to-biogas via anaerobic digestion, and liquid biofuel sectors, specifically with regard to standards and best practice. The Interest Groups host workshops and dissemination of information to those interested in the respective sectors, or considering investment.

This submission is complementary to the individual submissions from members which provide more detail on specific aspects of the draft report.

We do not wish to speak to support this submission but can be available if requested.

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill ("ZCB") is a great start toward assisting the citizens of New Zealand to start reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

New Zealand has many bioenergy and biofuels related methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions which use proven technologies and can be implemented immediately. These include:

- Use of biomass and waste to replace petroleum-based fuels such as coal, gas and diesel.
- Processing of waste to avoid discharge of methane emissions and produce biogas and bio-fertiliser – two valuable products
- Use of biomethane and liquid biofuels as vehicle fuels.

These methods of reducing greenhouse gas emissions also assist regional economic growth, clean air, clean waterways and provide additional revenue streams for stakeholders.

The Bioenergy Association supports all the most significant parts of the Bill:

- The targets in the Bill;
- The establishment of the Climate Change Commission (CCC);
- The timeframes in the Bill which require government to make policy plans to meet future budgets;
- That the Climate Change Commission be independent from government so that it provides independent advice and has powers to report publicly on matters. (However, the Commission should be established in a similar manner to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment or the Law Commission. Also the Commission should report to Parliament, not the Minister);
- Emissions budgets must be met, as far as possible, through domestic emissions reductions and domestic removals. (We need to drive domestic action and innovation from local communities and businesses, and paying other countries will not help our shift to a sustainable economy);
- The Minister must prepare and publish a plan setting out the policies and strategies for meeting an emissions budget;
- The Commission must regularly monitor and report on progress towards meeting an emissions budget and the 2050 target;
- The Commission must prepare an annual report that includes, for the most recent year of the emissions budget period for which data is available;
- The responsible Minister may issue guidance for departments on how to take the 2050 target or an emissions budget into account in the performance of their functions, powers, and duties.

The Bioenergy Association believes that the existence of the Zero carbon legislation will assist Government and the community to adopt greenhouse gas emission methods which currently languish because of a lack of interest from Government and potential stakeholders.

Regards



Brian Cox
Executive Officer
Bioenergy Association