

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, as climate change impacts continue to rapidly worsen around the globe, the City of Los Angeles and the State of California are working towards a 100% Clean Energy future; and

WHEREAS, special interest groups continue to attempt to force dirty fuel into that energy mix, a problem that could increase the release of greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbate global warming; and

WHEREAS, biogas is often a waste product from dirty and unsustainable farm and livestock practices, the burning of methane (CH4) – a potent and dangerous greenhouse gas – from biogas and other organic waste releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, and this methane often leaks from pipelines and other infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hueso has introduced SB 1440, a bill that intends to mandate biogas as part of California’s energy mix; and

WHEREAS, SB 1440 would force local governments to subsidize unnecessary and risky infrastructure, and seriously undermine the City’s and the State’s ability to achieve 100% clean and renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, while using biogas can be a short-term solution to livestock methane emissions, it should not be institutionalized going into the future; the combustion of biogas and organic waste yields significant pollution that negatively affects air quality and SB 1440 will result in a net increase of the criteria pollutants that the Environmental Protection Agency lists as harmful to human health and the environment in its National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and could increase NO_x emissions by 10% in 2020, which would cause increases in ozone and particulate matter concentrations; and

WHEREAS, California should instead prioritize the reduction of methane as it addresses climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has long supported aggressive clean air and climate change mitigation measures and should continue to do so for the health and well-being of its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program OPPOSITION to Senate Bill SB 1440 (Hueso) which, if enacted, will worsen rather than improve the City and State’s clean air and climate change mitigation measures.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ, Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY: MB

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