



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Western Propane Gas Association Sponsors Legislation to Decarbonize the State’s Electricity with Renewable Propane.

Proposed “Innovative Renewable Energy for Buildings Act of 2021” would create financial incentives to provide renewable propane energy for California Buildings.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (April 13, 2021) – The [Western Propane Gas Association](#) today announced it is sponsoring legislation that would establish a program to provide financial incentives for the production of renewable propane – a critical energy source to help California reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from residential and commercial buildings.

Assembly Bill 1559 (O’Donnell) – the *Innovative Renewable Energy for Buildings Act of 2021*— would require the California Energy Commission to establish and implement a program to provide financial incentives for the production of renewable propane, including blends with renewable hydrogen or renewable dimethyl ether, that is used as an energy source for buildings in California.

While California is moving toward a renewable energy future, much of the state’s investment for renewable energy generation is focused on its public utilities’ electrical grid. WPGA estimates there are currently about 600,000 households who are not connected to the electric grid and rely on propane.

“AB 1559 addresses this problem by fixing a number of blind spots in the state’s energy policy,” said Joy Alafia, WPGA’s president. “By incentivizing production of renewable propane, California will be able to ensure these primarily rural communities have access to renewable energy and are able to participate in the state’s carbon reduction initiatives.”

Not only is renewable propane derived from such sustainable energy sources as animal fat and vegetable oils, but it offers a convenient, affordable and effective way for many communities to achieve carbon neutrality for energy used to heat homes, heat water, and generate electricity. Renewable propane also offers the added benefit of providing clean energy during emergencies, blackouts and when solar energy runs out.

WPGA has set an ambitious goal to provide California with a 100-percent renewable propane by 2030 to support the state's goals to fight climate change. "California's residential propane energy needs could be satisfied with 100% renewable propane as early as 2025, providing 1.42 million tonnes of CO2 emission reductions annually, the equivalent of taking 338,740 cars off the road every year. This bill would be instrumental in transforming building energy and provides one of the fastest paths for decarbonization."

Alafia commended Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach) for authoring AB 1559, which recognizes that California requires a diverse package of renewable energy sources to achieve its GHG reduction goals.

"I introduced AB 1559 because I am committed to doing everything possible to start addressing climate change now," O'Donnell said. "Embracing alternative renewable energy sources such as next-generation propane is essential if we are truly serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

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About the Western Propane Gas Association (WPGA)

The Western Propane Gas Association is a trade and membership service organization that represents propane marketers throughout California. Founded in 1949, the association maintains its core principles of education and safety. The association's primary purpose is to maintain high standards of practice within the industry, and in so doing, protect and expand the ability of its members to compete in the marketplace. www.westernpga.org