



New York Farm Bureau • 159 Wolf Road P.O. Box 5330 • Albany, New York 12205 • (518) 436-8495 Fax: (518) 431-5656

October 30, 2012

Hon. Jaclyn A. Brillig
Secretary to the Commission
New York State Public Service Commission
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 3
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Re: Case 03-E-0188/NYSERDA Petition for Modification

Dear Secretary Brillig,

On behalf of New York Farm Bureau, the state's largest general farm advocacy organization, I am writing to support the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Petition for Modification requesting that the Commission issue an order increasing the maximum project incentive available under the Renewable Portfolio Standard, Customer-Sited Tier (CST) Anaerobic Digester Gas-to-Electricity Program (ADG Program) from \$1 million to \$2 million.

It is my understanding that, due to the federal incentive program and lower wholesale energy prices, the financial outlook for ADG projects is not pretty. For example, the US Treasury Department's section 1603 program that provided thirty percent cash grants for installation of the technology, has unfortunately expired. Add to this, waning energy prices and constricting financing options and there are not many incentives to invest in an ADG projects, especially because they are quite costly to install and maintain. However, the value of renewable energy production to farms and the resulting environmental benefits cannot be denied.

As a result, New York Farm Bureau strongly supports NYSEDA's request to increase the maximum award from \$1 million to \$2 million per installation to help farms recover a greater amount of the actual costs of a project. We believe this change will provide a much needed incentive to farmers in the state to move forward with investment in the ADG arena.

Thank you for your consideration of this correspondence. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jeff Williams, Manager of Governmental Relations, at (518) 436-8495.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean E. Norton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dean Norton, President
New York Farm Bureau