

**SAN JUAN  
BIOENERGY**

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February 8, 2009

**Re: San Juan BioEnergy Support for SB124**

The Honorable Senator Jim Isgar  
Via email: [isgarsenate@frontier.net](mailto:isgarsenate@frontier.net)

Dear Senator Isgar:

Please accept this letter in support of SB 124 which would continue to provide funding for ag-related renewable energy projects. Previous such funding has been a key enabler of San Juan Bioenergy's successful construction and now operation of our oil crush, biodiesel, and renewable energy facility in Dove Creek. We contract with over 40 farmers for sunflower seed production, which is then utilized to produce sunflower oil for human consumption, biomass for renewable heat and power through a state-of-the-art gasification process, meal for locally raised livestock, and in the near future biodiesel through use of off-spec oils, used fryer oils, and more. This year we will crush approximately 15,000,000 lbs. of seed, in the process generating over a dozen jobs with promise for many more.

Access to funding through the Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) program administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Colorado Agriculture Value-Added Development Board was integral to development of our project. More generally, funding for ag-related renewable energy projects like ours is important to both Colorado's ag and renewable energy industry. It helps farmers and ranchers to participate in the development of Colorado's new energy economy, creates new markets and sources of revenue for agricultural producers, and can foster investment in businesses that create new jobs and strengthen our rural communities.

There are still tremendous opportunities to further develop our industry's potential relating to renewable energy development. As such, we strongly support SB124 and encourage the Colorado legislature to continue to invest in Colorado's agriculture industry through development of biomass based renewable energy. If you have any questions, I would be happy to speak with you or provide legislators with an on-site or virtual tour of our facility.

Sincerely,

*Jeffrey A. Berman*

Jeffrey A. Berman  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Tom Lipetzky, Colorado Dept. of Agriculture