

**Förvaltning/Enhet**

Regionala utvecklingsförvaltningen, Ledningsstab

**Till**

European Commission; Margrethe Vestager´s Cabinet

**LETTER REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF THE TAX EXEMPTION ON BIOGAS**

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Dear Madam Vice-President,

With this letter, we would like to emphasise the urgency of a European Commission decision and approval of a new tax exemption on biogas for Sweden. We, the signatories of this letter, are the highest political representatives of the Swedish region of Västmanland and its ten municipalities.

The removal of the tax exemption on biogas severely impacts local and regional levels. For public transport and companies using biogas in Västmanland, the removal means significantly increased costs and difficulties in realising the green transition. Furthermore, this letter demonstrates our support for the Swedish government's efforts to enable the European Commission to quickly come to a favourable decision on the issue.

The tax exemption on biogas contributes to Swedish security of supply and decreased fossil fuel dependency. It is also a driver of the green transition locally and regionally in Swedish society.

For more than 15 years, public transport in Västmanland has been running with biogas buses. As a result of the early use of biogas, the system has been fossil fuel-free for many years and today more than 80% of all buses operate on biogas, the rest are electrified. The removal of the tax exemption entails high costs of tens of millions of Swedish crowns yearly for the government and the municipalities. In the case of continued postponement of a decision, or a negative outcome, we might have to withdraw services, i.e. reduce the supply of public transport, to compensate for the increased costs. This would lead to negative consequences locally and regionally for public transport which hurts the sustainability of Västmanland and the prospects for sustainable, clean and fossil-free travel.

For companies in the region of Västmanland, the removal means increased costs with far-reaching consequences, affecting everything from transport and logistics to agriculture and industry. The removal of the tax exemption could also weaken the region's strong focus on sustainability and circular economy, increasing the risk of slowing down the development of green initiatives within the private and public sectors. In the long run, companies risk losing their competitiveness and facing difficulties in achieving their sustainability goals.

We support the Swedish government's efforts, and with this letter, we wish to further demonstrate the urgency of a favourable European Commission decision.

We are humbled by the complexity of this issue but hope that we can demonstrate how important it is that the European Commission decides favourably on this issue,

thereby enabling us to continue to operate fossil-free public transport for the benefit of our municipalities, our region, our country, and the green transition.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Landernäs

Chairman of the regional development board and of the public transport committee,  
Region Västmanland

Chairman of the municipal board

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Chairman of the municipal board Arboga

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