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I am writing on behalf of the Chancellor's Office of the California Community College System (CCCCO) in response to the Request for Comments on the EPIC Program of the California Energy Commission. We would very much like to build on our role as the state's primary developer of the clean technology workforce to enhance the CEC's EPIC program. In this expanded role, CCCCCO would directly support (1) industry's achievement of greenhouse gas emissions goals, (2) the state's leadership in the clean technology, (3) job development and economic growth, and (4) leveraged use of funds, and (5) an attractive return on EPIC investment.

Through our 112 campuses, CCCCCO is the primary developer of the state's clean technology workforce. It is a robust effort that has accelerated clean energy innovation, deployment and training in California.

Our campuses span the climatic and economic spectrum in California, as well being located in the jurisdictions of all three of the participant Investor-Owned Utilities, which are collectively managing the EPIC program.

We have a long history of direct support to the clean technology industry for their specific workforce needs. This is one example of how we contribute to the industry's growth and the state's economy. EPIC funding could provide the opportunity for continued economic and workforce development activities at our colleges to support technology advances and evolving skills requirements. A CEC directive and funding for the CCCCCO to align capabilities of its campuses with these innovation clusters would create important new capacity to accelerate clean technology deployment.

We support environmental improvement, safety, and energy conservation by efficient use of resources, and consistent improvement and reliability of emerging and adopted technologies.

Specific elements of this investment would be based on ratepayer and societal benefits by:

- Creating a Clean Technology Sector Strategy, aligning industry stakeholders statewide around priority workforce needs and executing education and training programs within appropriate regions and innovation clusters.
- Leveraging investments by ARRA and other sources to expand and make sustainable those workforce training programs already in existence.
- Focusing on occupations that positively impact the trajectory toward meeting AB 32 and other state mandates, including demand creation, technological innovation, statutory compliance, and financial returns.
- Accessing new talent pools by enabling dislocated workers – professionals, skilled craft, and the trades – to repurpose their careers for clean technology deployment.
- Eliminating duplication, capitalizing on statewide expertise, and creating new purpose-driven training programs within specific regions and innovation clusters.

Our campuses have partnered with management, labor, and evaluators to create the desired “high-road” trainings programs for California’s underserved as well as the incumbent workforce.

Three examples of our system that promote greater technologies reliability, lower cost, increase safety and enhances environmental sustainability:

The Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) support a statewide effort to help manufacturers embrace renewable energy technology in California. The CACTs have a history of introducing new technologies that save energy and create efficiencies on the factory floor or new product designs. One example of the new technology application was the introduction of carbon fiber composites parts in Joint Strike Fighter project. This allowed this high performance aircraft to reduce weight and save fuel. This same technology was also introduced to other applications for transportation, wind technology and medical devices.

The Environmental Training Centers (ETC) of the California Community Colleges can do all of the environmental compliance, worker health and safety and emergency response training for the EPIC project. In addition the ETC's can instruct on Phase 1 and 2 environmental audits at EPIC manufacturing and deployment sites.

The Advanced Transportation and Energy Initiative (ATTE) transforms the California public and private workforce into a technologically superior green workforce by serving

the rapidly developing technology-driven transportation and energy industries. Areas of emphasis include emerging transportation technology training, emerging energy technology training, the development of effective energy management plans, and the efficient utilization of energy and energy management resources.

Our transportation & energy technology, environmental and manufacturing related technical education, assistance and outreach programs can be tailored to the needs of the EPIC designed project with regional employers and employees in California benefiting from our collaboration.

Our representatives would welcome the opportunity to meet with the California Energy Commission to establish a formal program for these innovation clusters.

I thank the Commission for consideration of these comments on this vital program for the State's economic future.