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Extension of Scope of CalSEED Award Program

Westwood Aerogel is most interested in research areas related to battery fire safety for stationary units and EVs, transportation safety when shipping and storing new and end of life Li ion batteries, building efficiency, and advanced manufacturing opportunities for building a circular economy within California.

We enjoyed the structure laid out in the CalSEED award program. It is easy to follow and effective in deploying funds to local companies, accelerating the impact which can then be passed on to the CA ratepayers including benefits like job creation and affordable access to cutting edge innovations. It would be impactful to see an extension of the CalSEED program that focuses on innovation scale-up and deployment beyond the Prototype award, which could be structure to the BRIDGE program (1-4M USD award over a 1-2 yr project period) but is essentially an extension of the CalSEED Awards. Alternatively, expanding phase two for a larger fund size would be helpful.

As a note for the current program, it is difficult to budget around the 90-day delay between funds spent and reimbursement received. If the turnaround can be shortened in any way this would be super impactful.