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Proponent of Regional Energy Innovation Clusters - maintain funding

My name is Rick Azer. I am president of Sector-rise, an independent consultant advising emerging technology companies. I have served as a technical advisor working with start-ups in Cleantech San Diegoâ€™s Southern California Energy Innovation Network. Iâ€™ve been involved as a technical advisor to this program since itâ€™s initial inception 10 years ago.
Programs like the Regional Energy Innovation Clusters are a great way to incubate new technologies and could easily be focused on the CEC areas of interest such as those describe this morning related to Electric Vehicles.
Historically the REIC model has delivered a massive return on investment. The work accomplished associated with this program here in Southern California has led to over $700 Million in follow on funding to the startup companies involved in the program, along with hundreds of patents and significant full time job creation in area that directly support grid and economic impact. As federal support for clean energy initiatives continues to face uncertainty, it is more important than ever that California continues its nationwide leadership in energy innovation by sustaining investment in the proven, regional programs that deliver real economic and environmental results.
Thank you for allowing me to comment.
Rick Azer
President, Sector-Rise