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Support for Continued Early-Stage Clean Energy Innovation Funding in California

As the founder of EELI Technology, Inc., a California-based clean energy startup developing advanced electrochemical technologies for domestic lithium and critical mineral recovery, I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the EPIC 2026â€“2030 Investment Plan.

California's leadership in supporting early-stage energy innovation through programs such as CalSEED and CalTestBed has been instrumental in helping startups bridge the gap between laboratory research and commercial deployment. For companies developing breakthrough technologies, access to non-dilutive funding for pilot-scale validation, testing infrastructure, and customer demonstration projects is often the critical factor determining whether promising innovations can advance toward commercialization.

I encourage the California Energy Commission to continue prioritizing research and demonstration programs that support grid resilience, domestic critical mineral supply chains, industrial decarbonization, and resource recovery technologies. In addition, funding mechanisms that provide flexible support for pilot projects, technology validation, and partnerships between startups, national laboratories, universities, and industry stakeholders can significantly accelerate innovation while creating economic and environmental benefits for California ratepayers.

Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing California's clean energy leadership and supporting the next generation of energy technology companies.