

DOCKET	
10-ALT-01	
DATE	MAR 07 2011
RECD.	MAR 07 2011

March 7, 2011

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 10-ALT-1
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: 2011-2012 Investment Plan for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program – Docket No. 10-ALT-1

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the 2011-2012 Investment Plan for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program, specifically its impact on Tesla Motors, Inc. and its manufacturing operations and suppliers in my district.

For nearly 25 years, the New United Motor Manufacturing Incorporated (NUMMI) plant produced high quality vehicles under a 50-50 joint venture between Toyota and General Motors. Located in Fremont, CA, the NUMMI partnership directly produced over 5,000 jobs in the Bay Area and another 20,000 jobs statewide through its purchasing of supplies.

While the economic benefits of this plant were tremendous, they unfortunately were not enough to survive General Motor's 2009 bankruptcy. On April 1, 2010, the workers at the NUMMI plant produced their last vehicle and exited the doors of the plant one last time – or so they thought. Just when California was saying goodbye to auto manufacturing, a new auto company, Tesla Motors, Inc. moved right in – developing plans to produce their new electric vehicle, Model S, by 2012 and establishing a partnership with Toyota to develop an electric version of the RAV4. This move reinvigorated the community, restoring hope when everyone thought it was lost.

This hope, however, is tempered by the fact that Tesla's growth in the region will take time. Any help to expedite the expansion and development of their operations should be encouraged. This includes funding to promote a trained workforce; one skilled in the technology necessary to build Tesla's clean product. I understand Tesla has future plans to ramp up their current workforce from 600 to over 5,000 employees. If the goal is to hire many of the workers formerly employed by NUMMI, they must first be properly trained within the scope of the new technology. This goal can be achieved quickly if given the proper resources.

Tesla represents the future of California's economy, creating manufacturing jobs and promoting development in the clean technology sector. As the company expands, so could the jobs that NUMMI once supported – from vendor purchases to the statewide chain of suppliers. Tesla could be a model for our state and therefore, I will continue to support their efforts to grow and create jobs in California.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 319-2020. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Assemblymember Robert A Wieckowski
Assembly District 20