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GNA comments on Workforce Development Programming

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

June 3, 2020

Larry Rillera
Fuels & Transportation Division
Advanced Fuel Production Office
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on Clean Transportation Workforce Development Programming

Dear Mr. Rillera,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Energy Commission's upcoming Clean Transportation Workforce Development solicitation. For over 26 years, Gladstein, Neandross & Associates (GNA) has worked closely with industry stakeholders across North America to improve air quality and accelerate the adoption of clean transportation technologies. We are eager to continue collaborating with the Energy Commission to develop effective, equitable clean transportation programs that support market transformation and California's air quality goals.

We have two key recommendations on how to utilize the limited, yet critical funding from the Energy Commission and sister agencies in order to advance workforce development objectives for clean transportation.

First, we believe it is essential to **bring industry stakeholders and workforce development providers together to inform a comprehensive needs assessment and gap analysis of clean transportation workforce training.**

There are significant efforts already underway to develop curricula and deploy training programs, however, a formal stakeholder engagement process is still needed to facilitate ongoing and critical dialogue between industry and workforce developers – particularly in the medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) sector. The following are strategies for such engagement that would fit nicely within the upcoming workforce development solicitation:

- Host a virtual event(s) to solicit comments, feedback and recommendations from industry stakeholders and workforce developers on established curricula and training deployments as well as unaddressed or overlooked issues, gaps, and considerations of future needs.
- Reinstitute or revamp the Regional Innovation Clusters of Opportunity (RICO) program to facilitate formal collaboration between industry stakeholders and workforce developers through a series of forums and structured gap analyses.
- Establish an official Workforce Development Council to meet regularly over the course of two-three years in order to focus on current best practices, critical gaps, and future needs within both the light-duty and MHD sector.

Second, we recommend **engaging with local code officials around streamlined permitting and installation of zero-emission vehicle technology infrastructure.** We understand first-hand how the disconnect between state regulations for streamlined permitting (AB 1236) and the codes/directives from local zoning boards have significantly impacted the timeline and/or feasibility of infrastructure installations. This requires rethinking the way we do business at the local and utility levels—essentially necessitating reverse engineering to identify bottlenecks or obstacles and

streamline implementation. If we continue MHD infrastructure development at the current rate, we will never reach the level of market penetration needed and wanted for the industry. The following are strategies for such an effort that would fit nicely under the upcoming workforce development solicitation:

- Host a series of collaborative virtual event(s) that can ensure a region-by-region action plan is developed to improve permitting and deployments. It should bring critical stakeholders together—labor, cities, counties, and utilities—to “whiteboard” the current process and timeline and identify ways to improve it.
- Develop a baseline awareness of infrastructure permitting processes to-date, which can be similar to the effort that the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) engaged in to streamline direct current fast charger (DCFC) permitting for MHD vehicles. It would enable a wide-scale surveying of municipalities of various sizes throughout the state.
- Deploy training to code officials and utilities to streamline permitting.
- Develop an updated report that evaluates the status and effectiveness of training and collaboration efforts, thereby ensuring accountability.

GNA is grateful for the chance to provide comments on upcoming workforce development programming around advanced vehicle technologies and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Energy Commission in support of California’s clean energy and air quality goals. Thank you for your consideration and please don’t hesitate to reach out directly with any questions.

Sincerely,



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