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Submitted On: 4/27/2022
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Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 21, 2022

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of San Diego State University's expansion plan for an Innovation District and STEM programs on the Brawley campus. I urge you to include SDSU's \$80M request for a STEM building to support workforce needs related to lithium extraction in the Lithium Valley Budget Package.

Brawley's proximity to the Salton Sea and the lithium extraction operations create an ideal location for STEM research and curriculum. Educational programming that can support the alternative fuel industries interested in investing in the Imperial Valley would have a significant economic impact on the city and region. This type of project supports the vision outlined in the Imperial County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that calls for training and job opportunities that help bolster economic growth in the region. A dedicated pipeline for students to receive the training to fulfill the workforce needs would have a transformative effect. And expanding STEM capabilities at the Brawley campus would allow for students to complete their education without commuting to the San Diego campus and would also allow for additional student enrollment.

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley as "The Voice of Business" is a Convener for leaders of influence, a Catalyst for business growth to enhance a healthy economic and social environment in our region, and a Champion for a strong community. Our Chamber is the largest business organization in northern Imperial County. Our members include small businesses, corporations, associations, and individual professionals.

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley strongly supports the development of a San Diego State University STEM research and workforce development campus project in Brawley, which would be enormously helpful to all Salton Sea Lithium developers.

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley believes that this project will be a catalyst for future growth and development in the region. I strongly support San Diego State University and look forward to strengthening our community partnership for the betterment of the Imperial Valley. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me in my office at ramiro@brawleychamber.com or at (760) 344-3160.

Sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer

CC: Senator Ben Hueso
Senator Nancy Skinner
Senator Bob Wieckowski
Senator John Laird

Senator Nancy Skinner
Asm. Eduardo Garcia
Asm. Phil Ting
Asm. Kevin McCarty