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## **support for continuing to develop the lithium industry**

To the Blue Ribbon Commission:

I wanted to share my support for continuing to develop the lithium industry in Imperial County. As you are aware, we have one of the state's highest percentages of individuals living in poverty, with almost a fifth of the population falling into this category.

For this reason alone, I appreciate the Commission's concern for our community, which has been underserved for decades.

By supporting the development of these projects, we can secure much-needed economic benefits - like hundreds of jobs, millions in tax revenue and tens of millions in economic activity funneling into the Imperial Valley. At the same time, it can help to fuel California's clean energy future and make the state's new climate goals a reality.

Additionally, the dedicated revenue stream passed by the California legislature will ensure local communities receive a significant share of the production taxes on lithium (including funding for the Salton Sea restoration) aiding us in this journey towards change.

Let's work together to support this industry and find the best path forward to meet our community and economic goals, allowing the industry, economy and Imperial Valley to thrive for generations to come.