

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO
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**Comment on California Zero-Emission Vehicle Battery
Manufacturing Block Grant Program**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



California LABOR Federation

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September 18, 2023

Chair David Hochschild
Zero-Emission Vehicle Battery Manufacturing Block Grant Program
California Energy Commission
Docket No. 23-TRAN-03
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: **Comment on California Zero-Emission Vehicle Battery Manufacturing Block Grant Program**

Dear Chair Hochschild:

The California Labor Federation urges the California Energy Commission to adopt labor standards as part of the Zero-Emission Vehicle Battery Manufacturing Block Grant (ZEV BMBG) Program, which will ensure the creation of high-quality manufacturing jobs in California, while ensuring that California meets its climate goals.

The ZEV BMBG program is stated as being designed to expand and retain ZEV battery manufacturing in California, create high-quality jobs, create positive economic impacts, and contribute to California's goal of zero-emission transportation. We share those goals and believe that the only way to meet the state's ambitious climate goals is to create good jobs that allow workers to afford to buy ZEVs they will build through this program.

Funding alone, however, does not automatically create good jobs. Strong labor and workforce standards are necessary to ensure the program can meet their stated goals and create good jobs that benefit workers and the economy. These standards should also address workforce shortages in electric vehicle and battery supply chains and increase the number of skilled workers trained and experienced in this work. . To that end, the priority for Block Grant funding must be given to applicants that are committed to high-road workforce and employment standards.

SB 322 (Becker, 2023), a bill that moved through the state legislature, laid out high-road workforce standards and job quality standards for this grant. We urge the California Energy Commission to voluntarily adopt the standards laid out in SB 322 and to create a workforce application, scored separate from other criteria, that will be required for eligibility in the program. By voluntarily adopting these standards, the California Energy Commission can set a standard for the battery manufacturing industry to create good job creation with a path to the middle class and to meet the state's climate goals.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the California Energy Commission voluntarily adopts these standards.

Sincerely,

Nick Cruz, Ph.D.
Legislative Advocate
SM: OPEIU 29 AFL CIO

Cc: Commission Members