

DOCKETED

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RE ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant Advisory Committee

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



**BLUEGREEN
ALLIANCE**

October 12, 2023

David Hochschild
Chair, California Energy Commission
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

John Boesel
President and CEO, CALSTART
48 S Chester Ave
Pasadena, CA 91106

RE: ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant Advisory Committee

Dear Chair Hochschild and John Boesel,

Our organizations are collectively fighting for a just transition to ensure that changes in the U.S. automotive industry result in quality jobs that benefit workers and their communities while accelerating the electric vehicle transition.

We are writing to strongly urge you to immediately diversify the ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant Advisory Committee that has is being convened by the CEC and CALSTART to develop criteria for and evaluate ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant applicants.

The ZEV Battery Manufacturing Block Grant is a critical starting point for ensuring that workers and communities will benefit from millions of dollars in taxpayer money that is being given by California to electric vehicle companies. Currently, this committee appears to be composed of 12 members, and only two labor organizations which include UAW and the California Labor Federation. No community, EJ, or environmental organizations are currently part of the decision-making process for allocating these millions of dollars to corporations.

We call on the CEC and CALSTART to immediately change the composition of the committee so that *at least half* of the members who are making decisions about our taxpayer dollars represent workers, communities, or environmental organizations.

In order for California to capitalize on this once in a generation opportunity to grow the middle class, we can't continue playing by the old rules where workers and communities are unable to participate in deciding where our taxpayer money goes. We need real decision-making power to determine how a just transition will unfold in our state. We urge you to ensure that workers and communities have real power to fight for a transition that benefits us by empowering this committee to represent us as equals.

Sincerely,

Mike Miller
Director, UAW Region 6

Sara Flocks
Legislative and Strategic Campaigns Director, California Labor Federation

Emily Gartenberg
California Policy and Legislative Manager, Jobs to Move America

Tamina Chowdhury
California State Policy Manager, BlueGreen Alliance

Cc: Christy Bouma, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Grant Mack, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Phoebe Bisnoff, Program Manager, Battery Manufacturing, CALSTART