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## Race to the Top Building a High Road Battery Manufacturing Industry through PowerForward

In a high-road economy, firms compete by capturing the value of innovation, quality, and worker skill, rather than pursuing a â€~low-road' race to the bottom based on low wages and cutting corners.― — California's ZEV Strategy (2021) The PowerForward program is designed to accelerate a high-road ZEV battery manufacturing industry in California: one that values quality jobs, equity for disadvantaged communities, and environmental sustainability. This approach builds on core strategies embedded in the federal Inflation Reduction Act programs, which encourage employers to develop partnerships aimed at fostering workforce and community benefits. High-road employers can access funding opportunities at the state and federal level, as well as the potential PowerForward investment.

In this webinar, experts will introduce the elements of the PowerForward program that support high-road outcomes, and discuss how applicants can incorporate these types of strategies. What to expect: High level share around the high road opportunity in California. Explanation of the workforce and community benefits section of the Power Forward application. Real talk and insights from high road experts including Betony Jones and Derek Maunus. Betony Jones serves as Labor Advisor to the Secretary of Energy and Director of the Office of Energy Jobs. In this role, she shapes U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) policy to prioritize job creation and economic equity within the clean energy sector. And Derek Maunus is CEO of Gillig, a CA based highroad employer and a U.S. leading manufacturer of heavy-duty public transit, including zero emission battery electric buses. (stay tuned for follow-on announcements) Access to follow-on support, resources, and time for Q&A.

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