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September 16, 2013

Governor Jerry Brown
1301 10th Street, #1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

As Business Manager/Financial Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, IBEW Local #47, I am pleased to offer my union's support for the Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) clean energy plant.

Our union represents electrical workers across the country – many of whom have worked in this industry for generations, including my own family. Our industry has undergone many changes over the decades and we constantly seek opportunities to secure employment for our members, advance our trade and offer the technical skills and apprentice training needed for the jobs of the future.

The HECA project in Kern County meets all of these objectives as an energy project of the future. As one of the first projects of its kind, HECA brings together safe and commercially proven technologies and repurposes them in an entirely new way to generate clean, low-carbon electricity using hydrogen – the energy of the future. HECA's state-of-the-art technology will also enable the capture, storage and utilization of carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery, as well as the production of a much-needed local source of low-carbon fertilizer for California.

The economic benefits are forward-looking and long term, starting with high quality construction jobs. After so many years of economic decline, this is an outstanding opportunity to get people back to work on a project that will improve lives and set the stage for future generations. The HECA project will have both direct and indirect impacts on the local, regional and state economies. The resulting new business growth, commerce, fertilizer manufacturing, oil recovery and increased tax revenues will enable Kern County to regain its momentum as one of California's premier regions of growth and development.

The environmental benefits also look to the future. As electrical workers, we appreciate that HECA will generate 300 MW of clean energy. But in so doing, HECA will produce lower GHG emissions than any conventional power plant of its size, including natural gas. In this way, HECA has the potential to advance California's long term climate strategy and serve as a model for the rest of the country and even the world.

With these important outcomes in mind, and with an eye toward ensuring California's continued leadership in environmental and energy issues, we encourage your support of HECA as it progresses through the regulatory process.

Sincerely yours,

Patrick Lavin
Business Manager/Financial Secretary
IBEW Local Union #47

cc: Karen Douglas, Commissioner, California Energy Commission
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