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Comment Received From: Kent Leacock

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Proterra Comments on the 2016-17 Investment Plan Update for the ARFVTP

Comment Letter Attached

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

May 11, 2016

Commissioner Janea Scott
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2016-17 Investment Plan Update for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel & Vehicle Technology Program

Dear Commissioner Scott,

Proterra, a leading manufacturer of zero-emission commercial transit solutions, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the 2016- 2017 Investment Plan Update for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP).

We greatly appreciate the California Energy Commission's important investment to accelerate the development and construction of our state-of-the-art west coast zero-emission bus manufacturing facility in the City of Industry, which also helped lead to relocation of our headquarters from South Carolina to California. Proterra's advanced technology reduces carbon emissions by 70% or more compared to CNG or diesel buses, and zero-emission transit buses provide the opportunity for all Californians to ride an electric vehicle and realize the health and other associated benefits.

Specific Comments on the 2016-2017 Funding Plan

1. Proterra strongly supports staff's proposal to allocate \$23 million for Medium-and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Technology Demonstration and Scale-up and Manufacturing. This funding is needed to further accelerate and expand medium- and heavy-duty vehicle manufacturing in California, specifically zero-emission public transit buses, as well as support innovative technologies and market expansion for demonstration projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality.
2. Within the zero-emission heavy-duty vehicle technology sector there is a need to design and manufacture batteries with increased capability in order to help eliminate range-anxiety and expand the duty-cycle and deployment of heavy-duty zero-emission technology throughout California. There is an immediate need to conduct further R&D, scale-up and/or retool manufacturing lines, and demonstrate the extended capability and range for zero-emission heavy-duty vehicle technology, with the associated technology transfer to other heavy-duty zero-emission technology.
3. Additionally, Proterra strongly encourages the early release of a Program Opportunity Notice (PON) in FY 2016-2017, as FY 2015-2016 reallocation of the manufacturing funding has

delayed and potentially jeopardized further manufacturing and demonstration of heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle technology in California. There is an immediate need to accelerate the release of the solicitation in order to continue the success of zero-emission vehicle manufacturing in California, which will help accelerate the demonstration of vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and grow jobs throughout the state.

We respectfully request an inclusive solicitation that is open to the full range of medium and heavy-duty technologies, including zero-emission public transit buses, and that enables technology transfer to other heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle technology (e.g., goods movement and sustainable freight). Zero-emission vehicle manufacturing and associated R&D is needed to optimize and drive down the upfront costs of many types of medium and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the 2016-2017 Investment Plan Update for the ARFVTP and applaud the leadership of the California Energy Commission to accelerate the manufacturing and demonstration of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and create jobs throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Ryan Popple
CEO, Proterra