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December 23, 2016

The Honorable Andrew McAllister Commissioner, California Energy Commission 1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioner McAllister:

On behalf of the 31 school districts in Humboldt County, and the Humboldt County Office of Education, I am writing to express strong support for a one-year extension for the Proposition 39 K-12 Program encumbrance deadline, from June 30, 2018, to June 30, 2019. An extension of these deadlines is critical to allow the necessary time to ensure that Proposition 39 dollars are spent effectively and appropriately.

In concert with the California Department of Education (CDE), the CEC has adopted a definition of "encumbrance" per the California Education Accounting Manual as a "commitment in the form of a purchase order or offer to buy goods or services." This definition was announced earlier in the year, along with the final deadline of August 1, 2017, for school and county boards to submit EEPs. These deadlines essentially reduce, by a full year, the period of time available to gather and analyze the local data needed to submit an effective and publically transparent EEP.

Under the current EEP submission and encumbrance, deadlines, it is likely that our district and others will not have ample time to ensure that an EEP is properly aligned with the specific needs of our schools. Also, since the current EEP deadline occurs before allocations are made from the CDE to the Proposition 39 program for 2017-18, LEAs would be forced to submit an EEP based on estimates and guesses, not on the actual amount of the allocations.

For these reasons, I strongly support a one-year extension of the encumbrance date, so that LEAs have the necessary time to collect and analyze the necessary local data, and that EEPs may be prepared and submitted with a full understanding of available funds.

Sincerely,

Garry T. Eagles, Ph.D. Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools