

## DOCKETED

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<b>Organization:</b>	Thomas Jensen
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*Comment Received From: Thomas Jensen*

*Submitted On: 3/20/2017*

*Docket Number: 17-EPIC-01*

## **Comments on Market Facilitation Aspects of the 2017-2020 EPIC Investment Plan**

Comment No. 1

Under Policy S5.1 Shorten the Timeframe of New Energy Technologies from Idea to Investment, an objective of the plan is to expand activities of the Regional Innovation Clusters to include:

“Increased mentorship on business development, commercialization, scale-up, and intellectual property considerations.” Please address these questions in your plan/response to comments.

1. What specific mentoring program do each of the REICs offer now?
2. How are they organized?
3. How are mentors sourced?
4. How are they trained?
5. How are the programs managed?
6. How is conflict of interest of mentors managed?
7. What is lacking in the current program that creates a need for this increased “mentorship” ?

EFN is very interested to support education and decision making for the mentoring programs that the EPIC programs offer, including the REICS and SEED.

EFN is leading an entrepreneurial mentoring research survey/study that is the largest of its kind in the US. The study involves both private, government sponsored and university sponsored entrepreneurship and mentoring programs. Study partners are the Kauffman Foundation, the National Science Foundation I-Corps, Program, and more than 25 universities. For more information on the study go to <https://www.enterprisefutures.org/kauffman-foundation-mentoring-research/> Our Kauffman Foundation Mentoring Study will be available in the summer of 2017.

8. What is a way/mechanism to get involved in EPICs planning on mentoring programs?

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Comment No. 2

The previous CEC EPIC Investment Plan (2015-2017) sets forth plans for reducing barriers for entrepreneurs to connect their technologies to the market. In February 2016, the CEC issued an award to Navigant Consulting for the “Connecting Emerging Energy Technologies and Strategies to Market Needs and Opportunities” Program. The CECs scope of work for this Program includes a plan to “Facilitate a Commercialization Assistance Network to Foster Successful Clean Energy Entrepreneurship” and an online platform to support this plan. I believe that this commercialization assistance program and online platform directly relate to plans to implement following policies in the 2018-2020 Plan.

“ S5.1 Shorten the Timeframe of New Energy Technologies from Idea to Investment

“ S5.2 Accelerate the Most Promising Energy Technologies from Prototype to Market Entry

1. How does this “technologies to market program” and online platform relate to and support the proposed activities in the 2018-2020 Investment Plan?

Many of the issues that pre-commercial energy entrepreneurs, including those in disadvantaged communities, face are informational “ not having good market intelligence, not knowing the right industry people and not having the proper training and information on best practices.

We believe that addressing these issues is best addressed by providing open and free access to information and people who can support energy entrepreneurs.

Providing this free, open and efficient access should be the CECs role directly with a web site (not through a single regional entity, like a REIC). This free and open access will empower current and future energy entrepreneurs

regardless of their location, background and demographics, improving the diversity and inclusiveness of the energy innovation ecosystem.

2. Please clarify the CEC's plans including the timing regarding creating an online portal and network for all interested parties to benefit from.

Enterprise Futures Network ([www.enterpriseutures.org](http://www.enterpriseutures.org)) is a non-profit whose mission is to catalyze the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders by empowering young professionals through mentoring, education and acceleration. We have over 25 university and non-university partners. Our mentor program empowers young people to explore and develop their entrepreneurial interests and our iCatalysts program ([www.icatalysts.org](http://www.icatalysts.org)) gives those whom we mentor a stronger bridge to develop real life ventures.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

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