

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Jessica Hammerling  
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## **California Battery Pilot Manufacturing Line Concept**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

**TO:** CA Energy Commission  
**FROM:** UC Berkeley Labor Center  
**DATE:** 10/4/24  
**RE:** Comments on California Battery Pilot Manufacturing Line Scope

The UC Berkeley Labor Center offers the following written comments on the California Battery Pilot Manufacturing Line Scope.

The Battery Pilot Manufacturing Line presents an important opportunity for California to leverage its leading innovation ecosystem to generate quality jobs and build out critical domestic supply chains as we advance the design and deployment of clean energy technologies.

In order to harness the full potential of the pilot line to catalyze in-state job opportunities that promote equity and our decarbonization goals, we recommend that the solicitation require applicants to articulate strategies for supporting a *high-road* approach to workforce development — one that advances job quality, job access and long-term career pathways. A high-road approach is essential for capitalizing on California's comparative advantage in innovation, race-to-the-top competition, quality of work, and a skilled, diverse workforce.

High-road workforce strategies should include:

- Community and workforce agreements for pilot line facility construction, such as Project Labor Agreements, Community Benefits + Workforce Agreements, and apprenticeship requirements
- Community and workforce agreements for pilot line manufacturing, operations, and maintenance workers (e.g. DOE's required [Community Benefits Plans](#)).

They may also include developing resources that support best practices for job quality and workforce development for users of the pilot line who commit to high-road practices, such as community and workforce agreements and joint labor-management apprenticeship programs.

Apprenticeships are an especially important strategy for training workers for jobs that do not require a college degree, and for improving equity in access to quality jobs for workers from disadvantaged communities. Best practices for apprenticeship programs include:

- Programs run by joint labor-management partnerships
- Articulation agreements between unions and community colleges
- Multi-year training programs with on-the-job training (OJT) and classroom training
- Earn while you learn training, in which wages increase over time
- Industry-recognized, transferrable certifications
- Pre-apprenticeship programs and wrap-around support (e.g. transportation and child care)

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this exciting program!