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California Energy Commission
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September 17, 2012

Commissioner Robert Weisenmiller
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-33
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for the Republic Solar Highways Project

Dear Chair Weisenmiller,

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group is pleased to offer support for the Republic Solar Highways' (Solar Highways) application for funding from the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) as a technology deployment demonstration project.

California is the nation's leader in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the pioneering use of solar panels. Solar Highways will be a partnership between private investors and the State of California through the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to create a first-of-its-kind, commercial scale solar facility within an existing national highway system right-of-way (ROW). We believe that this project will advance the goals of the EPIC program and the leadership of California by providing significant environmental, economic, and societal benefits.

Solar Highways will produce up to 15 megawatts of clean energy, which is enough to power 2,250 homes and offset 15,000 metric tons of carbon emissions per year. In addition, the project will create 728 direct and indirect induced job-years in the first year of the project and 922 total job-years over the duration of the project (24 years). Furthermore, Solar Highways will generate new revenue for Caltrans and the state on an on-going basis through a long-term ground lease and revenue sharing plan with the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

The Leadership Group is pleased to support Solar Highways' application for EPIC funding. This project supports the goals of EPIC while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating clean energy jobs in this state. We hope that the Commission will thoughtfully consider this application.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents more than 375 of Silicon Valley's most respected employers on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. Leadership Group members collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley and have more than $3 trillion in annual revenue.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at asmart@svlg.org or 408-501-7871.

Sincerely,

Anne Smart
Director of Energy
Silicon Valley Leadership Group