

February 20, 2015

Dear Commissioner McAllister:

I am writing to register my strong support for the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC), University of California, Davis, a public-private partnership that has evolved over the last decade. This partnership grew out of a close collaboration between the lighting industry, California's investor owned utilities and the California Energy Commission to support a broad programmatic research, demonstration, education and training project portfolio.

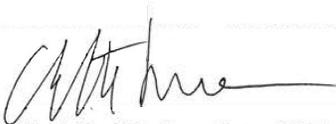
As a consultant to manufacturers, designers, builders, and industry organizations, I see first hand the extensive need for better information on products, compatibility, energy efficiency, and standards. Technology development is far outpacing the regulatory environment, and the ensuing disruptions impede California's, and the world's, ability to realize the vast potential for energy savings that the new technologies offer. And the need for better information, standards, and operability is about to get a lot more crucial as lighting technology moves into the area of smart buildings and smart controls- the current level of complexity and disruption will be multiplied significantly. In many cases, CLTC provides the only research I can find to support certain initiatives. There are very few institutions around the world that specialize in this kind of scientific inquiry into the things that matter most to us in the industry.

CLTC also invited me to participate in the public process of reviewing lighting codes and standards, specifically for California's Title 24. This is an invaluable process that is often overlooked by many key stakeholders for many reasons. Based on this experience, I was able to report on the impacts of the changes to the code to many colleagues and clients, and elicit further involvement and comments. The diversity of this interaction is critical to the success of regulations and their effect on energy use.

CLTC plays a crucial role in devising collaborative solutions to problems that hold California back from reaching energy reduction targets set many years ago- problems in markets, perceptions, behaviors, standards, guidelines, and product quality. CLTC is so effective because it takes a collaborative approach with all stakeholders- manufacturers, end users, regulators, researchers, designers, and builders. I feel that a strong public/private partnership approach is the only valid way to deal with the problems we face in implementing new technology today.

Investing in CLTC and research centers that use a similar model presents the opportunity to effectively integrate and address long-term energy efficiency issues that cannot be obtained through individual project solicitations in different activity areas and at different times. In the marketplace now, education and research on behavior, efficiency, light quality, and the growing interest in Internet of Things and controls is absolutely crucial to managing this dramatic change in how we use energy. Consumers, manufacturers, regulators, utilities, specifiers, and owner/operators all need answers, guidance, standards, and solutions that can only be achieved through objective, careful, collaborative research with innovative institutions like CLTC.

Sincerely



Clifton Lemon  
President