



**DAVIS**  
**ENERGY**  
**GROUP**  
INCORPORATED

March 4, 2015

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

Dear Commissioner McAllister:

We are writing you in support of research centers such as the Western Cooling Efficiency Center (WCEC) at UC Davis, an applied research, development, and demonstrations partnership founded in large part based on CEC funding. The WCEC grew out of a close collaboration between the HVAC industry, California's investor-owned utilities, and the California Energy Commission, to encompass a broad research, demonstration, education and training portfolio.

Davis Energy Group has collaborated with the WCEC on a number of HVAC efficiency projects. We worked with the WCEC on an IOU-sponsored project to evaluate retrofits to existing commercial roof-top units, in order to enable energy efficiency measures in existing HVAC systems. Additionally, we partnered closely with the WCEC in developing the Honda Smart Home, a positive net-energy research home constructed at UC Davis. In both cases (and others), we've been impressed by the WCEC's technological depth and their responsiveness. And both of these projects contained elements that were originally funded by the CEC's former interagency agreement with the WCEC. The RTU Retrofit project started as a small-scale effort under the WCEC's interagency agreement with the CEC, which was later picked up and funded by a California IOU. Additionally, the envelope aerosol sealing process we used in the Honda Smart Home was funded by the WCEC's multi-year interagency research agreement with the CEC, and we worked with WVEC to successfully demonstrate the technology on a number of homes through a Building America team that we lead. This was made possible by CEC seed funding. Efforts such as these are superb examples of how state funding of research centers can serve to spark investment elsewhere in the market.

We strongly believe that the nimbleness associated with funding research centers or programs (rather than only specific projects) is essential to achieving California's efficiency targets in a timely and cost-effective manner. Investing in the WCEC and similar research centers with flexible, multi-year funds presents the opportunity to effectively integrate and address long-term energy efficiency issues that cannot be obtained through individual project solicitations.

Sincerely,

David Springer  
Vice President