

California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento CA 95814

Commissioner McAllister,

We are writing you in strong 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 (companies large and small), California's investor-owned utilities, and the California Energy Commission, to encompass a broad research, demonstration, education and training portfolio.

As a domestic and international manufacturer of humidification and HVAC/R controls, Carel USA has collaborated with the WCEC on a range of projects. In particular, we have worked with the WCEC to assess the efficiency of our evaporative pre-cooler, a product that allows owners of existing commercial HVAC equipment to dramatically increase the efficiency of their systems. This project was funded by a California IOU, but started as a small-scale effort under the WCEC's interagency agreement with the CEC. Additionally, Carel USA has participated in the WCEC's outreach, training, and education efforts, and has benefitted from the information they've made available to a range of industry participants on technology development and codes and standards. Both of these efforts started as rather modest programs, seed-funded by the CEC through multi-year investments in the WCEC's mission, and later grew via funding by other organizations. They are superb examples of how state funding of research centers can serve to spark investment elsewhere in the market.

The WCEC is very effective in addressing and resolving building conditioning-related inefficiencies that, if left unaddressed, will prevent California from meeting its ambitious energy efficiency goals. A significant part of the WCEC's success has been due to its ability to quickly bring resources to bear on a challenge, and then either abandon it if a solution proves to be ineffective, or (more often) continue to pursue that solution with CEC funding or transition project support to other sponsors. In addition to the above examples, WCEC successes under center support from the CEC include its aerosol envelope sealing technology, which has since gathered both private and federal research support and is now nearing market introduction. We strongly believe the nimbleness associated with funding research centers or programs (rather than only specific projects) are essential to achieving the state'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 in specific activity areas. Carel, like many companies have additional innovative technologies all geared toward the common goal of saving energy with permanent reductions from the grid. It is finding like this that allows us to actively prove and promote these technologies.

Sincerely,



Ken Wood
National Sales Manger
Carel USA