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Submitted electronically to eli.harland@energy.ca.gov

To: Commissioner McAllister

RE: CEC should continue to support research centers with EPIC resources

I understand that California Energy Commission (CEC) will lead a public workshop to review the initial implementation of the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Investment Plan of February 24. I also understand that the workshop will include an evaluation of whether or not the CEC should continue to support research centers with EPIC resources.

While I believe that competitive public solicitations are excellent vehicles for delivering focused services and defined deliverables for well-defined problems, individual contracts with narrowly-defined deliverables lack the broad mission and long-term responsibilities associated with research centers.

In the specific case of the California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) at the University of California Davis, they advance energy efficiency through a broad project portfolio that includes research, demonstration, education, and workforce training. A large part of CLTC's success is the integrated nature of its work, which has allowed higher education, workforce development, research, and contributions to the development of codes and standards to evolve in mutually supportive ways. CLTC has been effective at addressing and resolving lighting problems that would otherwise impede progress toward California's energy goals.

I support CLTC's mission and model and admire their many accomplishments during the past decade. CLTC has been effective at addressing long-term energy-efficiency considerations that would have been difficult to address through short-term and narrowly defined individual project awards. I therefore urge CEC to continue its investments in CLTC and other research centers that use a similar model.

Sincerely,

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