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California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
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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.

American Honda Motor Company collaborated with the WCEC on the Honda Smart Home project that we built at UC Davis. The WCEC, along with a comprehensive team, designed the home's mechanical systems, developing a creative blending of existing components to achieve radical energy efficiency. This was also an opportunity for the WCEC to utilize the aerosolized sealant during the construction phase, and then to analyze the performance during occupancy.

We believe that the WCEC is an important part of the overall strategy of addressing and resolving building conditioning-related inefficiencies that, if left unaddressed, will prevent the state from meeting its ambitious energy efficiency goals. Examples of WCEC success under center support from the CEC include its aerosol envelope sealing technology, mentioned above, which has since gathered both private and federal research support and is now nearing market introduction. Another is the program formerly known as the Western Cooling Challenge, which started under CEC auspices and then attracted California IOU funding. We strongly believe that 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.

Sincerely,

Michael Koenig
Project Leader, Honda Smart Home US