

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0505

November 20, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Developing and Enhancing Workforce Training Programs for the Electric Power Sector (Topic A of DE-FOA-0000152)

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing to offer my support of California State University, Sacramento's request for funding through the Department of Energy's Developing and Enhancing Workforce Training Programs for the Electric Power Sector solicitation which was made available by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.

This grant solicits applicants to develop new training strategies and programs for the electric power sector, with focus on achieving a national, clean-energy smart grid. For this grant Sacramento State has partnered with smart grid industry leaders including the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, California State University, East Bay, and Cal Poly Pomona.

Sacramento State's College of Engineering and Computer Science is home to the largest power engineering program in California, annually graduating roughly two-thirds of the new power engineers in the state. In addition, the College of Engineering and Computer Science is home to the California Smart Grid Center. The campus is at the forefront of developing new training strategies and programs for the utility industry that will help address existing gaps in training needs.

Sacramento State and its partners are seeking \$2.5 million to develop and implement workforce training programs for the electric power sector, especially electrical engineers and IT professionals in support of the transition to a smart grid. Funding will allow Sacramento State to graduate well trained electrical engineers with smart grid credentials, a crucial component to meeting workforce demand and the federal smart grid goals as identified in the Recovery Act. Electrical utilities predict that as many as 50 percent of their technical staff will be retiring within the next five to ten years. Therefore, we must ensure there are new well-qualified engineers entering the workforce to meet the demand over the next decade and beyond. Sacramento State's request will give new opportunity to displaced workers who are looking to change their careers

to the power industry by providing scholarships, certificate programs and continuing education courses.

Again, I am pleased to support Sacramento State's grant proposal to the Developing and Enhancing Workforce Training Programs for the Electrical Power Sector solicitation. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doris O. Matsui". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "D" and "M".

DORIS O. MATSUI

Member of Congress

DOM:cf