

June 29, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Federal Stimulus Proposal

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer:

Thank you for the actions already taken by Congress to address the COVID-19 pandemic as well as much needed aid to American businesses large and small, as well as individual Americans. Yet more is needed to help restart our economy, put Americans back to work, build our nation's infrastructure, support innovation, and clean our nation's air to protect public health.

We, the undersigned representing 13 states and District of Columbia, urge Congress to invest \$150 billion federal stimulus funding into much-needed zero emissions vehicle manufacturing and innovation, infrastructure deployment, public and active transit, job training and startup and small business innovations.

Based on research from economic advisory firm HR&A, we estimate that the proposed \$150 billion in stimulus could create 2.3 million jobs across the sectors included in this proposal. Distributed proportionally across the US in targeted communities, this type of investment is critical to providing immediate economic stimulus and job creation, as well as to creating a foundation for future economic development while creating more resilient communities.

In doing so, we will improve air quality and protect public health, given that studies have shown breathing polluted air makes individuals more susceptible to viruses, including COVID-19. These investments will help communities across our great nation benefit from cleaner air over the long-term, along with safer streets and quieter neighborhoods.

The attached "***Keeping America Working, Protecting Public Health, & Strengthening our Communities***"—prepared by and submitted to Congressional leaders under cover dated April 27 from the [Transportation Electrification Partnership](#) (TEP)—outlines a set of

strategies and investments we urge you to consider for federal economic and infrastructure stimulus. As expressed in the letter from TEP Chair & Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator CEO Matt Petersen, “In addition to job creation, economic growth, and technological innovation, this proposal can help reduce air pollution, improve public health, ensure equitable access to charging and EVs, protect vulnerable populations, and lessen the impact of future epidemics.”

The \$150 billion in recommended actions include:

- 1. Zero Emissions Vehicle Manufacturing, Assembly, and Adoption - \$25 billion:** Investing in the manufacturing, assembly, and adoption of (EVs) of all types and sizes (on the ground, in the water, and in the air) via tax credits, scrap and replace programs, grants and loans (including utilizing the existing USDOE ATVM program which has nearly \$18 billion in authorized capacity).
- 2. Zero Emissions Infrastructure Investment - \$85 billion:** Investing dedicated funding for infrastructure that will last dozens of years, will employ tens of thousands of Americans, and will support the massive deployment of zero emission transportation solutions. The funded infrastructure includes charging for electric vehicles and equipment of all types and sizes, useful to individuals, businesses, and government operators across the country; adding utility electrical capacity to enable robust charging; and increasing the supply of renewable energy and building grid resilience. Key to success is also unlocking private capital by optimizing existing economic tools (e.g., New Markets Tax Credits, Opportunity Zones, CDFIs, etc.), and funding programs that reduce energy costs for low-income customers.
- 3. Zero Emissions Public and Active Transit - \$25 billion:** Investments in all forms of electric transit, enabling safer and complete streets, waterways, and airspace.
- 4. Workforce Development and Job Training - \$12.5 billion:** Investment in training, paid internships and pre-apprenticeship and state-approved joint-labor management apprenticeship programs for the underemployed and unemployed, including veterans and formerly incarcerated, to build EVs, install and maintain charging infrastructure, work for cleantech startups, and more.
- 5. Innovation Ecosystem, Cleantech Startups, and Related Small Businesses - \$2.5 billion:** Supporting innovation and cleantech startups and small businesses—including dedicated resources for those founded by women and people of color—via direct support, incubators/intermediaries, and shovel-ready pilots in low-income communities.

Finally, we urge Congress to adopt the attached federal stimulus investment plan while prioritizing the distribution of funds to applicants that commit to high-quality wages, benefits, training and a targeted hiring plan for individuals facing barriers to employment. In cases where funds are being allocated to relevant agencies, we recommend prioritization for those that utilize a best value contracting framework (e.g., U.S Employment Plan for public purchasing processes, Construction Careers Policy, etc.).

Implementing the above strategies will help rebuild the economy in a way that will create hundreds of thousands of high quality jobs, restart the economy and accelerate growth, support entrepreneurs—including underrepresented founders—and the innovation economy, reduce air pollution, and protect vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to advance this proposal.

Sincerely,

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Los Angeles, CA

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Ohio Turnpike & Infrastructure
Commission
Berea, OH

James Kinnick, P.E., Executive Director
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