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March 20, 2012

The Honorable V. Manuel Pérez
Assemblymember
California State Capitol, Room 4090
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2205

Dear Assemblymember Pérez:

On behalf of CleanTECH San Diego, I am pleased to submit my support for AB 2205 (V. Manuel Pérez).

CleanTECH San Diego is a nonprofit association focused on accelerating the greater San Diego region's transition to a clean energy economy. We have a broad and diverse membership that includes private sector companies, as well as local governments, nongovernmental agencies and universities and research institutions.

For several decades, geothermal power plants have been producing clean, renewable energy in California. Innovative California companies have discovered ways to extract lithium and other energy critical materials out of the geothermal brines from geothermal power plants.

These materials are vital to electric vehicles, grid energy storage and other clean energy technologies needed to meet California's climate targets and clean energy goals. The win-win development can also improve the competitiveness of geothermal energy from material extraction proceeds, avoid the harmful environmental impacts from traditional mined-based production, and create jobs. However, an ambiguity in current California law could prevent its adoption.

AB 2205 would address this problem by clarifying that the existing, stringent regulations and exemptions that apply to geothermal plants extend to material extraction processes that are connected with the geothermal plant in a closed-loop system. This clarification would enable any company employing environmentally responsible methods to extract clean energy materials and other beneficial substances in a highly regulated system.

Thank you for your leadership in helping to foster California's clean energy economy and meet our environmental targets. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Jason Anderson