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March 11, 2016

Ms. Latifa Jeter, Grant Officer  
The U.S. Department of Labor  
Employment and Training Administration, Office of Grants Management  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N4716  
Washington, D.C. 20210

**RE: SDWP's Application for the Summer Jobs and Beyond: Youth Career Pathway Grant**

Dear Ms. Jeter,

Cleantech San Diego is pleased to support the San Diego Workforce Partnership's (SDWP) application for DOL's *Summer Jobs and Beyond: Career Pathways for Youth (CPY)*. Over the last three years, San Diego elected officials, school districts, community colleges, businesses, labor organizations, nonprofits, and SDWP have made great progress in better connecting underserved youth and young adults to meaningful career opportunities.

SDWP's five priority sector reports, released in 2014, have set the direction and supported efforts for nearly \$20M in competitive state and career pathway grants for the region, including a \$13.2M California Career Pathway Trust grant. The Mayor of San Diego along with other elected officials and the *One San Diego 100* initiative have challenged San Diego's most innovative companies to hire at least 10 young adults for paid internships. Many companies are stepping up and leading the charge, including Qualcomm and its innovative maker-space Think-a-bit lab, which is inspiring the next generation of American workers to embrace STEAM fields.

Operationalizing much of this work on-the-ground with 16-24 years olds is the aim of SDWP's Connect2Careers program, primarily funded by the City of San Diego. Through an innovative, custom MIS system, evidence-based work-readiness curriculum and deep employer relationships with like-minded companies, SDWP's program is ready to scale. This \$2M investment by DOL will accelerate Connect2Careers growth, helping transform the lives of hundreds of youth and families in our community.

Cleantech San Diego is a nonprofit member organization that positions the greater San Diego region as a global leader in the cleantech economy. We achieve this by fostering collaborations across the private-public-academic landscape, leading advocacy efforts to promote cleantech priorities, and encouraging investment in the San Diego region. Critical to the success of our industry is a talented workforce that can meet the needs of local employers. By supporting programs like the one proposed by SDWP, we can help ensure the workforce of the future is appropriately prepared.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Anderson  
President and CEO  
Cleantech San Diego