May 20, 2016

Honorable Susan A. Bonilla  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4140  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1697 (Bonilla) -- Support

Dear Assemblywoman Bonilla:

On behalf of Cleantech San Diego, please accept this letter in support of AB 1697, which helps California workers successfully transition and secure jobs in the clean energy sector.

On January 5, 2015, Governor Brown issued a statewide goal of reducing petroleum use 50% by 2030 in order to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This goal will be achieved by reducing petroleum consumption while simultaneously increasing production and use of renewable and alternative fuels. As policies that reduce GHG emissions and petroleum use go into effect, the job market landscape will inevitably change, resulting in a greater emphasis on green jobs.

To address the long-term goals of reducing GHG emissions in California, the legislature established the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP). With $100 million granted annually to increase alternative and renewable energy projects statewide, ARFVTP projects should also include workforce development components to meet the future demands of the shifting job marketplace.

AB 1697 incentivizes applicants for ARFVTP funding to include a workforce development element in order to be more competitive in the grant process. This bill will ensure that the California workforce transitions smoothly to implement future policy priorities aimed at reducing GHG emissions.

Thank you for your dedication to these issues.

Sincerely,

Jason Anderson  
President and CEO  
Cleantech San Diego