



FOUNDATION *for* CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

*Benefiting, Supporting, and Enhancing
the California Community Colleges*

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December 16, 2016

California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95815

Re: Appendix C: Volkswagen Zero Emission Vehicle Investment Commitment Development Process and Investment Areas

Dear California Air Resources Board Members and Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Volkswagen's (VW) zero emission vehicle (ZEV) Investment Commitment development process and investment areas for California. The Foundation for California Community Colleges (Foundation) strongly supports the significant investment for ZEVs and infrastructure deployment that will help eliminate toxic mobile emissions, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and benefit communities throughout the United States.

The Foundation is the non-profit organization supporting the California Community College system, the largest system of higher education in the nation. The Foundation implements several air quality programs that directly benefit communities, colleges, and students, contributing to cleaner air while expanding student career training opportunities in the automotive field. These programs include the *California Automotive Resource Center*, which provides resources to help automotive professionals advance their career and education; the *Smog Technician Training Program*, which delivers hands-on experience for automotive students to become high performing smog technicians; and the *Replace Your Ride* program to help low-income people trade their older, high polluting vehicles for a more fuel-efficient option. The Foundation also previously administered *VRRRM (Vehicle Repair, Retirement, and Replacement for Motorists)*, an incentive program designed to reduce the number of high emitting vehicles on the road, and funded by \$20 million from the Reformulated Gasoline Settlement Fund.

Recently, the Foundation was selected by the California Air Resources Board to implement innovative outreach strategies to expand participation of disadvantaged communities in California Climate Investments programs. The statewide presence of community colleges, particularly in disadvantaged communities, enables us to outreach to and partner with local communities to address air quality challenges while building tomorrow's skilled workforce by placing our diverse students at the forefront of new environmental initiatives.

As part of the VW Investment Commitment (Appendix C) in California, we strongly support significant investment in ZEV public awareness and infrastructure to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicles throughout California. Specific suggestions include:

- Based on our experience implementing million dollar programs to clean the air and benefit communities statewide, the Foundation respectfully requests to be considered a partner in California's ZEV public awareness campaign implementation.
- We encourage engaging the California Community Colleges as a partner in implementation. With over 2.1 million diverse students, the community colleges are California's largest provider of workforce training, particularly for technical and middle skills jobs. The system's 113 colleges are important community institutions throughout California, including in urban, rural, and underserved communities.
- We encourage incorporating student training programs to install and maintain the ZEV infrastructure to provide hands-on experience to the next generation of automotive and other clean air technology professionals.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keetha Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'K'.

Keetha Mills
President and Chief Executive Officer