



April 2, 2014

The Honorable Joan Buchanan
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
State Capitol, Room 2148
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB 2235 (Buchanan/Hagman)
SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Buchanan:

The School Energy Coalition (SEC), an organization made up of K-12 schools, community colleges, school construction and energy consultants focused on energy efficiency and renewable generation projects for California's students, strongly supports Assembly Bill 2235 (Buchanan), a measure that would place a State School Bond on the November 2014 ballot. AB 2235 is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee on Wednesday, April 9, 2014.

SEC strongly supports AB 2235 because it is needed to provide efficient and well-maintained school facilities for our students statewide. Historically, the State School Facility Program (SFP) has had a proven track record of helping school districts build and modernize schools throughout the state and has been successful in providing structurally safe public school infrastructure statewide.

At this time, SFP bond authority has been exhausted, yet is needed more than ever as budget cuts over the last five years have impacted our school districts' ability to maintain and make needed improvements to their facilities. In addition, statewide bond funding approved in 2014 could be made to go further when combined with Proposition 39 that the Legislature and Governor agreed to focus on K-14 schools for energy improvements at every school site. In order to receive this funding, schools are required to complete site-wide energy measurements, audits and benchmarking. Today, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are moving forward with projects and installations that will create jobs, assist the state in meeting its energy goals and generate needed savings for schools through lower utility bills. These are savings that will in turn be applied to school priorities such as student supplies, teacher needs and learning technology.

SEC and other stakeholders support a continued state-local partnership for the provision of school facilities and for the reasons stated believe a statewide school bond is needed in 2014. In addition to providing resources for the construction and modernization of school facilities, funding state-approved shovel-ready (school projects typically can be under contract within 90 days) school facility projects create new jobs in diverse construction trades. *The Coalition for Adequate School Housing estimates that 13,000 jobs are created for each \$1 billion spent.*



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Finally, under the newly-established Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), adequate and appropriate school facilities that support student academic achievement will be critical to the success of California's new school funding mechanism.

SEC urges you to vote AYE on AB 2235 (Buchanan) when it comes before you on April 9, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Ferrera", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anna Ferrera
Executive Director

cc: Members, Assembly Education Committee
Robert Becker, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Jacque Roberts, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office