

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

2018-19 January State Budget Proposal

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

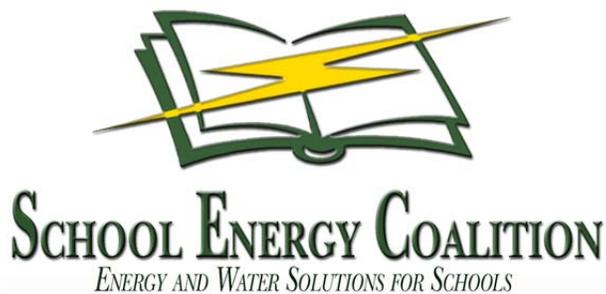
On behalf of the School Energy Coalition (SEC), a statewide organization made up of public school districts, community colleges, school construction and energy consultants focused on energy efficiency and renewable projects for California's students, I am writing to request that \$250 million be placed into the Clean Energy Jobs Creation Fund (aka Proposition 39) for future K-14 school energy projects.

We believe this is possible without budget disruption in other areas because the "single sales factor" corporate tax revenue funding source still remains in place. Half of the revenue from this change -- approved by the voters through Proposition 39 in November 2012 -- has generated an average of \$349 million dollars per year and has been fully utilized by schools. Our public school and community colleges say there are much more energy efficiencies and savings to take advantage of.

Five years ago, the Legislature and the Governor made the decision to focus the Proposition 39 program funding on clean energy projects on K-14 school campuses. Across California, school districts of all sizes rose to the challenge to measure their baseline energy use and determine what projects made the most sense on their various school sites.

Good work has been done to make schools more energy efficient and to lower greenhouse gas (GhG) and carbon footprint, as well as make excellent use of taxpayer dollars through these energy saving investments. Over the course of the program, local education agencies (LEA) have spoken for over 90% of the funding made available on lighting projects, replacing inefficient air-conditioning and heating units and installing solar panels.

Because of the Proposition 39 program, California's schools are more aware than ever of their energy usage and the cost and energy savings that is possible when they install energy efficiency and renewable projects. Their win at the local level translates to a bigger win at the statewide level as the collective impact of these local projects create a better environment for all of our citizens. In addition, State goals such as zero net energy schools are now within reach.



Attached is an SEC summary of just a few of the many K-14 school energy projects that have been able to move forward, along with the California Energy Commission's snapshot of the funding and the savings our school projects statewide are predicted to achieve.

The investment in these public projects through the Proposition 39 program have been a wise investment of taxpayer dollars as GhG has been lowered by an estimated 178,013 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent statewide and an estimated annual energy cost savings of \$97,157,595.

We urge you to consider adding additional funding to the Clean Energy Jobs Creation Fund so that more projects can move forward using the data and benchmarking that has been collected under the current program.

Please contact me with questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera
School Energy Coalition

cc: Members and Staff, Assembly Budget Committee