

February 7, 2014

The Honorable Marty Block  
Chair, Senate Subcommittee 1-Education  
State Capitol, Room 4090  
Sacramento, CA 95814

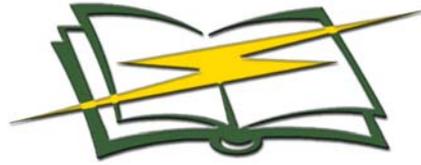
**RE: The 2014-15 January State Budget Proposal – Proposition 39 and School Facilities**

Dear Senator Block:

On behalf of 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, I am writing to express strong support for the continued focus on K-14 school facilities from the Clean Energy Jobs Fund (CEJF) created by California's voters per Proposition 39 in your 2014-15 State Budget proposal. We would also urge you to apply any new one-time funds identified at the May Revision to the CEJF for school energy efficiency projects.

Schools have been struggling under consecutive years of budget cuts to maintain their academic programs, keep teachers, and provide students with safe and clean places to learn. With the funding provided for school energy efficient installations under Proposition 39, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are working to leverage these dollars with other school facility and energy funding to achieve more utility savings. These general fund savings may be applied to other school priorities or to maintaining these investments.

It is exciting to see schools now moving forward to obtain approval of their energy expenditure plans from the California Energy Commission (CEC). The CEJF guidelines were approved on December 19, 2013 and a handbook was issued on January 31, 2014 to help schools as they move forward in planning and project implementation over the next few months and over the five years of the program. SEC is working with schools to inform and assist them in this process.



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Recent articles in the Sacramento Bee have also highlighted the importance of school facility maintenance, particularly heating and cooling systems. We are hopeful that Proposition 39 funding will assist, but we know it will not be able to cover the entirety of these maintenance issues. That may best be done through the state's School Facility Program.

SEC appreciates the continued focus of the CEJF on schools and, as schools start to work on their energy projects, we look forward to working with you and your Administration to inform on this process.

Sincerely,

Anna Ferrera  
Executive Director

cc: Members, Senate Budget Subcommittee 1  
Cheryl Black, Senate Republican Caucus  
Roger Mackensen, Senate Republican Caucus  
Jennifer Troia, Senate Budget Committee  
Jennifer Kuhn, Legislative Analyst's Office  
Nick Schweizer, Department of Finance