

April 5, 2023

Department of Energy (DOE): Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) 1000 Independence Avenue Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Letter of Support for ARCHES' Department of Energy Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE- FOA-0002779, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Clean Hydrogen Hubs.

To whom it may concern:

California has long led the nation and the world in environmental innovation and policy and will do so again with clean hydrogen (H2). As we continue to work towards achieving California's clean air and climate goals, we write today in support for the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES) as California's hydrogen hub. As elected officials representing diverse constituencies across the state, we are pleased to support ARCHES as California's hydrogen hub in our efforts to decarbonize our state.

Last year the Legislature allocated ARCHES \$5 million through the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) for proposal development and startup costs. Since then the Governor's Office, the University of California System, Organized Labor, and Renewables100 Policy Institute have worked to establish ARCHES as California's applicant for DOE Hydrogen Hub funding and beyond.

Hydrogen is an important complement to other carbon-free solutions, such as solar, wind, hydro, and numerous storage solutions needed to reach California's clean air, clean energy, reliability, and climate goals. We are committed to working with ARCHES to reach our common goal of ensuring a robust H2 economy and marketplace that creates cleaner, greener future, for our State. The Legislature strongly values prioritizing projects with a focus on California's environmentally burdened, disadvantaged, low-income, and tribal communities. We look forward to continue working with ARCHES to ensure implementation is in line with this value and to ensure that communities most impacted by climate change have a voice throughout the process. It is critical we create an economically sustainable, expanding, renewable H2 market for **all** that benefits California's communities.

California is uniquely positioned to become a hydrogen hub due to our strong skilled workforce, public and private investment base, relevant industrial ecosystem and supply chains, and renewable resources. The Legislature will work with ARCHES to create a policy environment to advance a clean hydrogen economy consistent with California's bold statutory framework for our

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zero-carbon future, coordinate with the Governor's Office to facilitate investing matching state funds in hydrogen projects through ARCHES, and support local and statewide community engagement and outreach. We offer our support to ARCHES' vision to create an economically resilient hub, and look forward to working with all stakeholders to ensure that hydrogen projects help accelerate our decarbonization efforts, establish a foundation for a clean economy, and provide a meaningful impact to cleaning our environment.

Sincerely,

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