**Draft Letter Regarding Proposition 39 and the AP Article**

Please use the following for your district to write two separate letters to the Governor and to Senate pro Tempore de León. Please then forward the letters to Aileen at adalen@m-w-h.com and she will distribute them:

The Honorable Kevin de León

Senate President pro Tempore

State Capitol, Room 205

Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Jerry Brown

Office of the Governor

The State Capitol

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator de León / Governor Brown,

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_ (school district/company/client), I am writing to you regarding the August 17, 2015 article by Julia Horowitz of the Associated Press (AP) regarding the Proposition 39 program entitled “California Measure Fails to Create Green Jobs.”

The article raises a number of issues regarding oversight and savings that do not reflect a good understanding of the current status of the program. The article appears to blame the Proposition 39 program implementation for the lack of data at this time due to regulations and control designed to protect the expenditure of taxpayer funds under Proposition 39. We understand the need to ensure Proposition 39 funds are being spent on projects that meet the voters’ intent.

There are a number of great school district projects that are moving forward statewide, including ours. This is a program that is successfully providing funding for school districts for energy efficiency projects that will ultimately pay back schools and taxpayers in real dollar savings over time and lower our use of energy which is a wise environmental choice for our community and state.

In \_\_\_\_\_\_ (your district) we are poised to (use/have) used our Proposition 39 planning dollars to measure how much energy we are using as required under the program. After carefully analyzing the best use of the allocation (we will/we used) our Prop 39 dollars to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We expect to save \_\_\_\_\_ (energy/dollars) over \_\_\_\_\_(time). We appreciate the flexibility in the program that allows us to go at our own pace within the five-year program period so our efforts result in these promised savings.

With regard to oversight at the state level, we know that projects such as ours are still in the (execution/pre-execution) stage. Like us, I am sure there are many other schools statewide that are collecting energy and dollar savings and data to present to the state as required under Proposition 39 when these projects are fully executed. The article fails to recognize that there is much data and analysis that must be done before installation or construction so that the projects deliver the savings promised, and you cannot rush that. Our communities are involved, excited and grateful for this opportunity, along with employees and others that are assisting us so that these projects deliver the efficiencies that we have promised our teachers students, community and state.

As of August 10, 2015, the California Energy Commission (CEC) reports that 942 school districts and over 1,000 charter schools have moved forward with energy efficiency projects funded with revenue provided by Proposition 39 that are projected to provide over $25,146,844 *annually* in utility bill savings. That is money that schools can use for other district priorities such as science, art, or career tech labs, equipment, teachers, and facility upkeep.

With regard to the charge that the state’s Citizens Oversight Board (Board) has not yet met, pursuant to the State’s Education Audit Appeals Panel, it is our understanding that completed school projects have between 12 and 15 months to submit a report of its project expenditures to the Board and they will begin to receive reports annually on October 1, 2015. Does the AP want the Board to meet with nothing to discuss on the agenda? That does not seem to be a good use of taxpayer dollars.

Finally, we most especially want to thank you, Senate President pro Tempore de Leon and Governor Brown, for your leadership in focusing dollars on school energy efficiency projects. These funds will ultimately result in savings that help schools at a time when there is very little funding available for school repair and facility projects. We are moving forward in a way that complies with the program so that the return on investment required by the state will provide ongoing savings for schools and taxpayers and represents a wise investment of these funds which will result in lower greenhouse gas emissions in communities statewide.

Sincerely,

(School Official)

(School District)

cc: Anna Ferrera, School Energy Coalition

Kip Lipper, Office of Senate pro Tempore Kevin de Leon

Dana Williamson, Office of Governor Jerry Brown

Arnie Sowell, Office of Speaker Toni Atkins

Andrew McAllister, California Energy Commission

Elizabeth Shirakh, California Energy Commission