

California Legislature

May 17, 2010

Dr. Karl S. Pister
Board Chair
California Council on Science and Technology
1130 K Street, Suite 280
Sacramento, CA 95814-3965

Dear Dr. Pister:

It has been a pleasure to work with CCST on the implementation of the Science and Technology Fellowship. We are very impressed with your work and commitment to laudable pursuits, as well as the caliber of individuals you have selected to work as Fellows in our legislative offices.

That is why we again turn to you and your staff to request assistance with an additional important undertaking on behalf of our great State.

We are living in difficult times with tremendous challenges before us. It is critical that we marshal all resources available in our State to stimulate our economy and foster economic growth that well positions California in the global economy.

California's historic economic success and prominence was created by a strong innovation ecosystem which itself is at risk. We believe it is in the public's interest to assess the environment for science and technology in California and its implications for the state's economy, to plan for the future of that economy, to develop recommendations for maintaining science and technology leadership in an increasingly globalized economy, and to facilitate new employment opportunities within the state's science and technology economy.

To help the state effectively address these risks and identify opportunities, we request that the California Council of Science and Technology (CCST) undertake a comprehensive assessment of California's "science and technology (S&T) innovation infrastructure and ecosystem," analyzing and reporting current global innovation systems, and recommending to the Legislature actions that should be taken to sustain the state's role as a global leader in science and technology.



We expect that this assessment and accompanying report will be undertaken in consultation with CCST's sustaining institutions: UC, the research arm of the state of California, Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, University of Southern California, California State University and California Community Colleges, your affiliate members, the federal National Laboratories, as well as key commercial/industrial sectors with successful innovation histories.

We appreciate that the California Council on Science and Technology will need to seek funding for this effort. If appropriate and sufficient external funding cannot be secured, CCST is not obligated or expected to undertake this effort. However, if funding is identified and secured by CCST, it is expected that CCST will proceed by convening a panel of science and technology experts to conduct the assessment and to prepare the report. These experts may include, but shall not be limited to, individuals with expertise in science and technology from business and industry, colleges and universities, the National Laboratories and non-profit research institutions. CCST is asked to provide this assessment and report to the Legislature at their earliest convenience, with a target date of May 2011.

The types of information we would like to see in an assessment and report should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) A discussion of the changing nature of science and technology innovation in the 21st century and identification of emerging S&T innovations and innovation trends.
- (2) A discussion of California's innovation capacity and global competitiveness in science and technology.
- (3) Identification of barriers to innovation and productivity in science and technology.
- (4) Recommendations for strategies and methodologies to improve the state's competitiveness in science and technology innovation.
- (5) Recommendations for facilitating economic growth and employment opportunities made possible by science and technology.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Assembly Member Anthony J. Portantino



President pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg



Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee



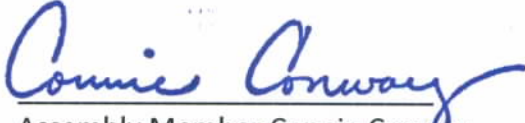
Assembly Member Marty Block



Assembly Member Joan Buchanan



Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter



Assembly Member Connie Conway



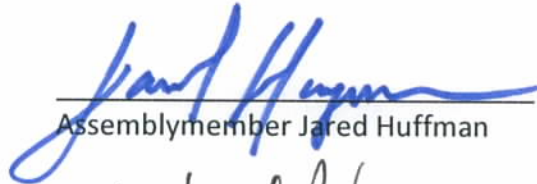
Assembly Member Nathan Fletcher



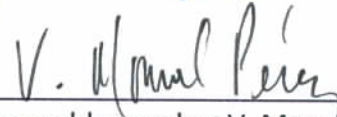
Senator Dean Florez



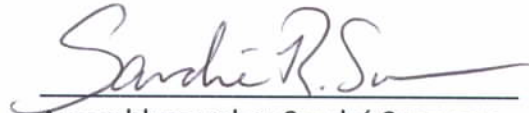
Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod



Assemblymember Jared Huffman



Assemblymember V. Manuel Pérez



Assemblymember Sandré Swanson

cc: Charles Kennel, Chair, CCST Council
Miriam E. John, Chair, Vice Chair CCST Council
Susan Hackwood, Executive Director, CCST
Lora Lee Martin, Sacramento Office, CCST