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August 23, 2006

Dear California Stakeholder:

I am contacting you today regarding a matter of great importance to California and to the nation. The California Innovation Corridor, which encompasses most of the innovation assets of California, stretches from Alameda County in the north to San Diego south, flowing east to include the Antelope Valley and the Inland Empire. This economic engine has been significantly impacted by “flat world” globalization. Specifically, the California Innovation Corridor has experienced a significant reduction in manufacturing jobs, disappointing under-performance of entrepreneurship activity and associated job creation, and is struggling with a critical shortage of highly qualified technical workers.

In recognition of this dilemma and motivated by a desire to ensure California's—and America's—continued global leadership, the California Space Authority (CSA) developed the “Workforce Transformation” proposal that was submitted by Governor Schwarzenegger to the U.S. Department of Labor for the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant. A major component of President Bush's Competitiveness Agenda, WIRED seeks to leverage regional public and private sector assets to generate economic growth and prosperity and to develop a 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce. CSA's proposal was awarded this multi-million dollar federal grant in February 2006. Under the grant, CSA will lead a partnership effort to increase entrepreneurship, to support manufacturing value chain and supplier competitiveness, and to foster accelerated development of an innovation-oriented technical workforce.

The ability to network the region's innovation assets, including people, institutions, capital and infrastructure, will be key to California's ability to drive transformational change. You and the innovation asset over which you preside play an important role in the California Innovation Corridor initiative. We will be conducting an inventory of the region's innovation assets, and I would like to respectfully request your participation in this activity. You should expect to be contacted by one of our partners regarding this matter in the near future.

Thank you in advance for joining CSA and its partners to ensure California's and the nation's continued global economic leadership. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments whatsoever.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Andrea Seastrand  
Executive Director

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