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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
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COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

HOUSE REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

IMMIGRATION REFORM
CAUCUS, CHAIRMAN

January 5, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

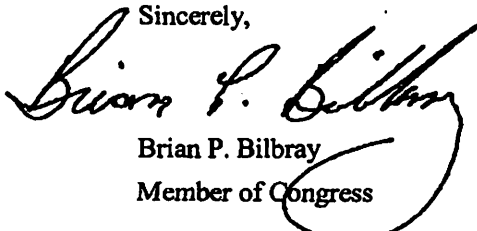
Aptera Motors, an innovative vehicle company located in San Diego County, plans to submit an application for a loan under the Department of Energy's (DOE) § 136 Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program (ATVMIP). This program was established by Congress in section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-140) in order to help foster U.S. manufacturing facilities for the commercial production of highly efficient vehicles, which will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and enhance our national air quality.

Aptera has developed plug-in and hybrid electric vehicles, which will be some of the most energy efficient multi-passenger vehicles in the world. As detailed in their application, Aptera plans to purchase manufacturing facilities, begin equipping the facilities, and perform engineering integration work necessary to begin commercial-scale production of the Aptera 2e and 2h. Initial retail distribution of the Aptera 2e is expected to begin as early as September 2011 and will provide consumers with an affordable, ultra-efficient, sustainable alternative for personal mobility.

Aptera's project will promote domestic job creation associated with both infrastructure investment and U.S.-based manufacturing of light-duty electric drive vehicles (EVs). Production of the 2e and 2h vehicles is expected to be housed in a facility in San Diego County, California. The jobs and production capabilities that this project will create will help the State of California, and other states through the supply and distribution chain. The U.S. automotive industry is struggling to find a sustainable path toward long-term viability. Projects such as this, which expand clean advanced EV production capabilities, provide a model for sustainable development which is based on technological innovation, reduced dependence on oil and environmental protection. As detailed in their application, Aptera's ultra-efficient vehicles are targeted for the mass market, with a projected sales price under \$40,000 and a range of over 100 miles per charge. As a plug-in electric vehicle, the Aptera 2e consumes no gasoline and emits no greenhouse gases.

I am pleased that California is home to innovative companies such as Aptera and I support their commitment to reestablishing American leadership in the automotive industry. I encourage you to give Aptera's application appropriate consideration and, while conducting necessary due diligence, do what you can to expedite the review process.

Sincerely,


Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress

BRIAN P. BILBRAY
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CAUCUS, CHAIRMAN

October 28, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Advanced Power Trains for Light-Duty Vehicles (ATP-LD) Funding Opportunity
Number: DE-FOA-0000079

Dear Secretary Chu:

It is with pleasure that I am supporting the recent grant application submitted by Achates Power, Inc., in partnership with AM General, to receive funding through the Advanced Power Trains for Light-Duty Vehicles (ATP-LD) Funding Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-0000079.

Achates Power proposes to validate and demonstrate a commercially competitive Tier II Bin 2 emissions-compliant, opposed-piston two-stroke diesel powertrain capable of achieving over 40% better fuel economy than its state-of-the-art port fuel-injected gasoline counterpart. AM General, has joined Achates Power as a partner in this effort, bringing to bear their significant experience and technical expertise.

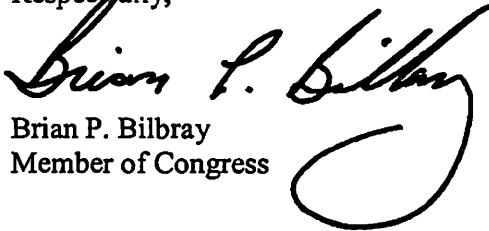
Proving the concept in AM General's paratransit taxicab, the proposed project would serve as a pilot opportunity for longer-term, wider-spread commercialization of the Achates Power engine, which would potentially be manufactured by AM General. The engine is anticipated to move a significant share of the U.S. market from gasoline to diesel and improve the overall fuel efficiency of the U.S. vehicle fleet. The project will provide valuable tests for performance and customer feedback and prove the powertrain's benefit for commercialization for smaller and larger vehicles. Once the technical merits of the engine and powertrain are proven, the technologies will be ready for production, creating and preserving valuable jobs, saving fuel, and providing significant cost savings for end-users.

Within the first year of this project, 200 new jobs will be directly created or retained. More than 300 jobs will be indirectly created or retained during the first year for major suppliers such as engine and vehicle components, simulation, services, hardware development, testing capability and more. Long term, this project is expected to create more than 1,000 jobs by project team members and their suppliers, and over 3,500 U.S. factory floor jobs. As the

nation works to overcome the recent economic challenges, this level of job creation would be a significantly important development.

I respectfully request that the application submitted by Achates Power, Inc. receive full and fair consideration. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Brian Jones in my office at (858) 350-1150 or brian.jones@mail.house.gov.

Respectfully,


Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington DC, 20585

Re: Recovery Act: Development of Algal/Advanced Biofuels Consortia, DOE Funding
Opportunity Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0000123

Dear Secretary Chu:

As Members of the California delegation, we are writing to express our strong support of the Consortium for Algal Biofuels Commercialization's (CAB-Comm) proposal to DOE under the above-referenced FOA to establish a world-leading effort to develop sustainable energy solutions based on algae biofuels. We are confident that investment in the CAB-Comm, led by the San Diego Center for Algae Biotechnology (SD-CAB) at UC San Diego, in partnership with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of California Davis, along with other leading research institutions from around the country, will reap great benefits for our nation.

As you and the Department have recognized, development of algae as a viable and sustainable source of transportation fuel is critical to decreasing America's dependence on imported oil, while creating new sources of meaningful green collar jobs. We strongly share these goals, and are pleased to express our strong support for this proposal being submitted to DOE by CAB-Comm. Algae can provide "drop in" fuels that are compatible with existing refining and fueling infrastructure; additionally, algae do not require vast amounts of arable land, fresh water, or petroleum-based fertilizers, and can sequester carbon during the growth process.


CAB-Comm and its renowned research institutions are working toward making sustainable algae-based fuel production and carbon dioxide abatement a reality within the near term, and is already at work developing innovative research solutions for the commercialization of fuel production from algae. CAB-Comm's diverse, nation-wide team of experts includes top academic researchers and leading industry partners from the states of Nebraska, New Jersey, Maryland, and New York, as well as California, and we are confident in the depth and breadth of its capabilities, and ultimate ability to succeed.


This effort will not only dramatically accelerate the goal of developing sustainable and environmentally beneficial alternative transportation fuels from algae, but will also serve as a


force multiplier for new economic development and job creation throughout California and the rest of the nation. A recent study conducted by the San Diego Association of Governments found that in the San Diego region alone, the existing economic footprint of the algae research enterprise translated into nearly 300 jobs, \$16 million in payroll, and \$33 million in related economic activity. Given the multiple environmental and economic benefits of algae as a fuels feedstock, this footprint will continue to grow throughout California and elsewhere in the U.S., as these pioneering technologies are refined and become more robust.


We are pleased to support this proposal by CAB-Comm and look forward to the results of this merit-reviewed DOE Recovery Act competition.


Sincerely,


SUSAN A. DAVIS
Member of Congress

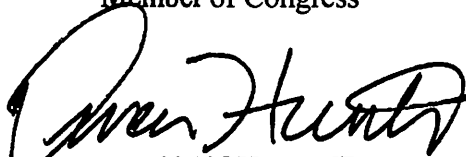

BRIAN BILBRAY
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JERRY LEWIS
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CAUCUS, CHAIRMAN

July 2, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary,

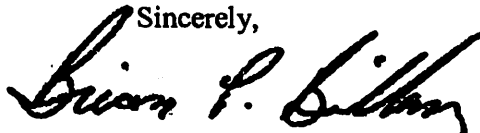
The Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) loan program is proving an important tool to aid American automobile innovators in their efforts to build the next generation of fuel efficient vehicles. It is for that reason that I am writing in support of V-Vehicle Company's (VVC) two applications for the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) loan program. VVC is headquartered in San Diego, CA, the region I represent, and has developed a fuel-efficient, low-emission and, perhaps most important due to the current economic environment, low cost vehicle. VVC submitted these applications to the Department of Energy (DOE) on March 13, 2009. Given VVC's potential impact on both the automotive industry and the overall U.S. economy, I am requesting that these applications be evaluated as quickly as possible.

VVC will deliver real results quickly and I believe it is a strong candidate for the ATVM loan program. These loans will assist the company with the engineering integration of the V Car in San Diego, CA. Additionally, the V Car will be manufactured in the U.S. and the loan funding will also support the reequipping of an existing manufacturing facility to be VVC's first regional assembly plant.

With the support of the ATVM loans, VVC will create more than 17,000 jobs over the next several years. This magnitude of job creation is impressive and will be critical to economic recovery in several states beyond California. By receiving the requested loan amounts, VVC will be able to accelerate the V Car's time to market and begin creating those jobs immediately.

I am pleased that California is home to companies such as VVC, and I support their commitment to re-establishing American leadership in the automotive industry. I encourage you to give VVC's applications appropriate consideration and, while conducting necessary due diligence, do what you can to expedite the review process.

Sincerely,



Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress