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September 28, 2022

Michael Drake, President
University of California
Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Sustainable transit options for UAW workers at UC

Dear President Drake,

I am writing to encourage the University of California (UC) to bargain in good faith with UAW-represented employees on proposals intended to increase public transit and other more climate-friendly work commutes.

As you know, we must do everything in our power to combat the impacts of climate change and we have an opportunity to lead on this issue by encouraging more sustainable work commutes in the UC System. The UC's 48,000 Academic Workers alone generate over **1,000,000 vehicle miles** through their commutes each week. This number does not include the 100,000+ non-UAW staff and the 200,000+ UC undergraduates.

Academic workers and staff are forced to move further away from their workplaces and become daily commuters due to the rising cost of housing. Meanwhile, workers who choose sustainable commuting options do so at additional personal cost, which can be a barrier for workers to adopt these commutes consistently and widely. That is why, 48,000 Postdocs, Academic Researchers, and Graduate Student Workers have proposed that the UC provide cash incentives to commute via sustainable means, free public transit passes, and subsidies for bike maintenance and e-bikes.

It is my understanding that UAW workers are negotiating their contract in good faith to include these proposals for the benefit of workers, the UC System, and the State. With each climate-friendly work commute achieved we lessen California's climate impacts, help the UC become a truly sustainable institution, and spur public transit ridership and investment, enhancing the quality of public transit for all Californians.

UAW-represented Academic Workers power the University of California's research and education missions and can be a major contributor to fulfilling our state's climate goals. I urge you to negotiate in good faith a contract agreement with UAW that includes their climate-friendly sustainable transit proposals.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ash Kalra". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'K'.

ASH KALRA