

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0066  
(916) 319-2066

DISTRICT OFFICE  
3424 WEST CARSON STREET, SUITE 450  
TORRANCE, CA 90503  
(310) 375-0691  
FAX (310) 375-8245

# Assembly California Legislature



**AL MURATSUCHI**  
CHAIR, JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SIXTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND  
TOXIC MATERIALS  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
UTILITIES AND ENERGY  
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE  
**SELECT COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR, AEROSPACE

October 6, 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,

As the state's largest employer, you have an opportunity to lead on the fight against the climate crisis right now. I write to urge you to reach an agreement with your UAW-represented employees on their climate-friendly transit proposals to create a more sustainable California.

The recent extended, record-setting heat wave underscored the urgency with which UC must address its substantial greenhouse gas emissions. 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. UAW workers are fighting for contracts that reduce these emissions and tackle climate change.

Recently, California enacted some of the nation's most aggressive climate measures to reduce carbon emissions and accelerate the state's transition to clean energy, including to achieve carbon neutrality no later than 2045 and 90% clean energy by 2035. If California is going to meet its new goals, we must all do our part to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Without investment from our public institutions, the climate emergency will only worsen. Currently, the high cost of housing forces Academic Workers to live far from their workplaces. Meanwhile, workers who choose sustainable commuting options do so at additional personal cost, which can be a barrier to these practices being adopted consistently and widely.

Academic Researchers and Graduate Student Workers have proposed that UC provide cash incentives to commute via sustainable means, free public transit passes, and subsidies for bike maintenance and e-bikes. These proposals will lessen California's climate impacts, help 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 are a major reason why the UC system received over \$3.5 billion in federal research contracts and grant revenue in fiscal year 2021.

For these reasons, I urge you to create a more sustainable UC for these workers, while helping to stem the climate crisis for us all.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Muratsuchi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Al Muratsuchi  
Assemblymember, 66<sup>th</sup> District