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October 4, 2022

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

**RE: Sustainable Transit Options for United Auto Workers at the University of California**

Dear President Drake,

I write to urge the University of California (UC) to bargain in good faith with United Auto Workers (UAW) -represented employees on their climate-friendly transit proposals to create a more sustainable California.

California has an opportunity to lead in combatting the impacts of climate change by encouraging more sustainable work commutes in the UC System. The UC's 48,000 academic workers 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. Rising housing costs force academic workers and staff to move further away from their workplaces and become daily commuters. Meanwhile, workers who choose sustainable commuting options do so at burdensome personal cost.

That is why UAW-represented employees 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. With each climate friendly work commute achieved we lessen California's climate impacts, help the UC become a sustainable institution, and spur public transit ridership and investment.

I urge you to bargain in good faith with the UAW-represented employees who power the UC's research and education missions. Together, the UC can become a major contributor to fulfilling our state's climate goals. For any questions, please contact my office at (916) 319-2053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miguel Santiago". The signature is written in a cursive style.

MIGUEL SANTIAGO  
Assembly Member, 53<sup>rd</sup> District