



October 5, 2022

Howard Gillman, Chancellor
University of California, Irvine
Office of the Chancellor
510 Aldrich Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-1900

RE: Sustainable transit options for UAW workers at UC

Dear Chancellor Gillman,

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 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.**

California has set ambitious goals to 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.

48,000 Postdocs, 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. 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 "Kathleen Treseder", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Kathleen Treseder
Professor of Biology and Howard A. Schneiderman Chair