Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Student Sustainability Collective at UC San Diego, we collectively and wholeheartedly express our support towards the funding opportunity within the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program for the UC San Diego Voigt Electric Mobility Hub (VEMH) project. As a recognized commission within the Associated Students Department at UC San Diego, the Student Sustainability Collective (SSC) recognizes firsthand the significance of the VEMH positively affecting the overall quality of life for the community with innovative changes.

The Student Sustainability Collective is motivated by our deep commitment to providing equitable resources to students within our community while preserving and promoting the core goal of sustainability. We are composed of devoted Directors and Interns who lead self-managed campaigns with innovative, original, and collaborative projects in an overall non-hierarchical structure. With our diverse knowledge, it is evident that the funding opportunity for UC San Diego’s VEMH will be a crucial next step towards funding the change needed to serve our growing community on a sustainable level.

The Voigt Electric Mobility Hub aims to solve a plethora of rider-based problems, connectivity concerns, and economic opportunity. However, a focus of the VEMH that the Student Sustainability Collective can speak on to the full extent is the positive environmental impact. For instance, if awarded with the funding, the VEMH aims to implement vegetated drainage basins to treat rooftop stormwater, photovoltaic architectural cladding and rooftop solar, and will aim to meet the criteria to be certified for the GBCI Parksmart Gold. In addition to these efforts, the Mobility Hub aims to be electrified, proposing a minimum of 400 Level 2 electric car charging stations, allowing a majority of personal vehicles and Transportation fleets to be charged. This infrastructure development would further support the shift of internal combustion engines into an emission-free battery-powered vehicle. As a result, these shifts will then reduce overall carbon footprint, conjointly being a significant “best-practice” Electric Mobility Hub in the region that ultimately supports the University’s goal to achieve net neutrality by 2025.

The SSC supports the Voigt Electric Mobility Hub and the potential funding from the RAISE Grant Program because the VEMH aims to accomplish the same collective goals the Student Sustainability Collective aims to achieve. With our diverse team of Directors and Interns, our various Campaigns, such as (but not limited to) Urban Development and Transportation Justice, Energy and Waste, Food Justice, and TGIF, focus on sustainable, inclusive, and equitable projects. For instance, The Green Initiative Fund at SSC focuses on funding sustainability focused projects while encouraging students to make an impact on campus sustainability goals. An example of this effort is “DelivAERO”, where we funded around $7,000 for this group centered on clean energy powered charging stations and air-delivery infrastructure.

Nonetheless, as a top-ranking public university, it is not only the university’s priority to provide a world-class education for our future leaders, thinkers, and innovators, but improving the elements of sustainability will in turn positively affect the community, environment, and future generations to come. So once again, the Student Sustainability Collective expresses foremost support for the RAISE funding opportunity for UC San Diego’s Voigt Electric Mobility Hub - a next step towards carbon neutrality.

With utmost gratitude and respect,

The Student Sustainability Collective
Associated Students Commission
University of California, San Diego