



August 8, 2023

Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)
1320 E. 7th Street, Suite 260
Los Angeles, CA 90021

RE: Support for UAW-CMGE H RTP Application

The Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) is in support of the United Auto Workers Center for Manufacturing a Green Economy's (UAW-CMGE) application to the California Workforce Development Board for a High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) grant. UAW-CMGE's partnership with Sparkz is an opportunity to connect high road jobs with workers who need them.

The Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC) works to end mass incarceration in California. To ensure our communities are safe, healthy, and whole, ARC empowers formerly and currently incarcerated people to thrive by providing a support network, comprehensive reentry services, and opportunities to advocate for policy change. Through our grassroots policy advocacy, we are dedicated to transforming the criminal justice system so that it is more just and equitable for all people.

ARC has already developed an 11-week Apprenticeship Readiness Program in partnership with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building & Construction Trades Council. All program participants are paid livable wages during cohort training prior to being placed directly in union apprenticeships. We have served over 550 participants (adult and TAY) thus far, with a 72% graduation rate and 70% placement rate of graduates.

This is the type of work that we hope to replicate with the partnership between UAW-CMGE and Sparkz. The Sparkz facility plans to eventually employ up to 1,200 people producing lithium-ion batteries. This partnership is a major opportunity to connect formerly incarcerated people with good, high road climate jobs. These types of opportunities can be life changing.

We are excited to bring our extensive experience preparing formerly incarcerated individuals for climate jobs to the UAW-CMGE partnership with Sparkz. ARC is in full support of this grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Lewis".

Sam Lewis
Executive Director
Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC)

1320 E 7th Street/ Suite 260/ Los Angeles, CA 90021/ T: 213.955.5885

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August 2, 2023

TO: Tim Rainey
CA Workforce Development Board
800 Capitol Mall, Suite 1022

RE: Support for the Center for Manufacturing a Green Economy (CMGE)
High Road Resilient Workforce Program Development Grant

The California Conservation Corps is pleased to support the CMGE as they establish a labor-management partnership to design a workforce development plan for a new Lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility in the Sacramento area. This model of a high road venture will yield hundreds of good quality jobs in an important emerging and growth economic sector in California.

We understand that the United Auto Workers has secured an agreement with the Sparkz corporation, a high technology California company, to ensure that these new jobs in the Green Economy will not only produce a patented Electrical Vehicle (EV) battery but provide employment for a new generation of unionized industrial workers. We see this as an opportunity for our Corpsmembers to gain access to a job where they will have good wages, benefits, health and safety protection, and worker's rights.

CMGE is dedicated to a fair recruitment and pre-employment training program that will prepare job seekers with the skills and knowledge to succeed in getting hired and learning new skills. Using an apprenticeship model, workers will continue to learn on the job as they become proficient with the new technology.

The CCC has enrolled and trained more than 130,000 young adults and veterans in our 47 years of service to California. Our Corpsmembers are represented by more than 60% BIPOC communities and pathways to good paying union jobs are an integral part of the CCC mission and the delivery of programs like this also fit the priorities of the CCC and Governor's goals to reduce emissions in transportation, through the production of zero emission vehicles and the infrastructure that will need to be built to support those ZEV vehicles.

If funded, the CCC will work with CMGE to conduct and create a fair recruitment process in the Sacramento Region and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of this letter and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require additional information from the CCC.

In Service,

Bruce Saito
CCC Director





August 1, 2023

RE: Support for UAW-CMGE H RTP Application

Community Resource Project (CRP) is writing in support of the application submitted to the California Workforce Development Board for a High Road Training Partnership (H RTP) grant by the United Auto Workers Center for Manufacturing a Green Economy (UAW-CMGE).

UAW-CMGE is seeking funding to develop a joint labor-management training partnership that they will operate with Sparkz, a manufacturer of lithium-ion batteries that plans to open a production facility in Rancho Cordova. The facility will employ between 600 and 1,200 workers and will be operational within 6 to 9 months of finalizing the property acquisition. Many of these positions will be entry-level positions that will require training on Sparkz's unique battery technology. Sparkz is committed to being a high road employer and has reached an agreement with the United Auto Workers to remain neutral should their future workforce choose to form a union.

Community Resource Project is a 50-year experienced nonprofit organization providing program services to low-income households living in underserved neighborhoods in the Sacramento Region. We implement federal programs targeting housing units requiring energy efficiency retrofits to reduce family's energy burden and live in comfort. We also provide energy efficiency basic training to individuals conducting this work.

Most recently, Community Resource Project developed and implemented a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV), **Sustainable Equitable Employment Destination (SEED) project**. This training program focused on attracting unemployed and underemployed individuals from two low-income communities and provide them classroom training coupled with hands on training in these areas of ZEV Charger installation, ZEV manufacturing, maintenance, and servicing, and ZEV related operations

We have trained 100 individuals, women and men, young adults as well as new immigrants with limited or no English language abilities to participate in this unique training. Currently, we are placing these graduates into related entry level jobs. Our understanding and trust developed in these communities have allowed us to be successful because of the opportunities shared with them.

CRP will support this project by working with UAW-CMGE to build a recruitment pipeline that is centered in disadvantaged communities in and around Sacramento. Through our energy and weatherization program, CRP already has extensive experience working with community partners to identify candidates for climate jobs. We have networks of community partners in disadvantaged areas and experience preparing work-ready candidates from these communities for employment. We are excited to bring this expertise to the UAW-CMGE partnership with Sparkz.

This project is an opportunity to bring high road jobs to the Sacramento area and to connect these jobs with the communities that most need them. We are happy to offer our enthusiastic support for this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Luis H. Sanchez'.

Luis H. Sanchez, CEO





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August 7, 2023

California Workforce Development Board
800 Capitol Mall, Suite 1022
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Re: Support for the Center for Manufacturing a Green Economy (CMGE)
High Road Resilient Workforce Program Development Grant*

Dear Grant Reviewer,

The Center for Workers' Rights, based in Sacramento, is supporting the effort by the United Auto Workers to secure a development grant to plan for the recruitment and training of workers in the new Lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant in our area.

We understand that the United Auto Workers has secured an agreement with the Sparkz corporation to ensure that these new jobs in the Green Economy will not only produce a patented Electrical Vehicle (EV) battery, but provide employment for a new generation of unionized industrial workers. We see this as an opportunity for our community to gain access to a job where they will have good wages and benefits, health and safety protection, and worker representation.

The Center for Workers' Rights engages low-wage workers in education about workplace rights and helps with enforcement of mandatory legal minimums. With the addition of new unionized workforce, we would be able to place these workers in positions where compliance with workplace conditions far exceed legal minimums and allow access for career building opportunities. We see less need for work enforcement of workplace laws when workers have union advocates.

If funded, the Center for Workers' Rights will work with CMGE to create a fair recruitment and hiring process, that makes these jobs accessible to the those who may have barriers to employment, but would greatly benefit from this opportunity.

Yours very truly,

Daniela Urban
Executive Director



Sacramento
Employment and
Training
Agency

July 28, 2023

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Executive Director

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California Workforce Development Board
800 Capitol Mall, Suite 1022
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for UAW-CMGE HRTP Application

Dear HRTP Selection Committee,

The Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA) is proud to support the United Auto Workers Center for Manufacturing a Green Economy (UAW-CMGE) application to the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) for a High Road Training Partnership (HRTP) grant. The joint labor-management training program being planned with Sparkz will bring hundreds of high-quality, permanent jobs to difficult-to-employ residents of the greater Sacramento area.

SETA works to fund programs that connect Sacramento-area residents with employment opportunities, and provides them with the skills they need to succeed. Working with historically marginalized and hard-to-employ populations is a critical part of our mission. The partnership between UAW-CMGE and Sparkz is an opportunity to make sure that these communities have access to much needed quality jobs.


Sparkz intends to open a facility within 6-9 months that will employ 600-1200 workers. They have agreed to remain neutral should their workers eventually choose to form a union. SETA looks forward to the opportunity to work with UAW-CMGE to build a recruitment pathway based in local communities to ensure these high road jobs go to those who need them most. We have a vast network of local community organizations we can leverage to help UAW-CMGE develop this pathway.

The UAW-CMGE - Sparkz partnership will complement the region's cluster of advanced manufacturing companies. The Sacramento area is home to a cluster of advanced manufacturing companies, including companies that produce semiconductors. By investing in workforce development, the CMGE partnership will contribute to a general upskilling of the area workforce that will make local companies more competitive and make Sacramento more attractive to employers.

“Preparing People for Success: in School, in Work, in Life”

In short, SETA strongly supports the UAW-CMGE's grant application. We are willing partners in supporting and facilitating a robust community recruitment. The benefits of this program will be felt far beyond the Sparkz facility. Please feel free to reach out should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hernandez
Executive Director



July 26, 2023

Sparkz, Inc.
5625 Brisa Street, Suite B
Livermore, CA 94550

RE: Support for UAW-CMGE H RTP Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Sparkz Inc. is pleased to support a grant from the California Workforce Development Board to develop a High Road Training Partnership Resilient Workforce Program with UAW Region 6, our partners in our joint effort to manufacture batteries for Electric Vehicles in California.

Sparkz Inc. is a battery manufacturing enterprise producing domestic cobalt-free lithium batteries. Unlike traditional lithium batteries, cobalt-free batteries can be made more cheaply in the United States and are less reliant on foreign supply chains. We are in the process of purchasing a manufacturing site in the Sacramento area and will commence hiring and training the production workforce six to nine months after the purchase is finalized.

By partnering with the UAW and their non-profit the UAW Center for Manufacturing a Green Economy, we will explore creating the model for a High Road approach to Electric Vehicle battery manufacturing. We have already reached an agreement with the International Union, UAW to remain neutral should our future workforce choose to form a union.

Sparkz intends to explore executing a Memorandum of Understanding with the UAW to develop our workforce development program. We look forward to supporting the hiring and training plan to create a workforce that reflects our commitment to equity, health and safety on the shop floor.

Our intention is to be operational within twelve to eighteen months. The opportunity for this Development Grant could not be more timely.

Sincerely,

Sanjiv Malhotra
CEO
Sparkz, Inc.