



# IMPERIAL VALLEY **REGIONAL** CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

April 23, 2024

Assistant Secretary Alejandra Castillo  
Economic Development Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Castillo:

On behalf of the Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce (IVRCC), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Lithium Valley Recompete Initiative. This transformative project is poised to significantly enhance the economic landscape of the Imperial Valley by fostering the development of a skilled workforce tailored to the needs of the burgeoning green energy sector, particularly in lithium extraction and processing. Additionally, this project will expand local small businesses in the childcare and food and beverage industries, and train and upskill local workers for quality jobs in construction, healthcare, truck driving, ag tech and other in-demand sectors.

As a unified body representing over 500 members, the IVRCC fully recognizes the importance of this initiative in promoting sustainable economic growth and job creation in our region. The Lithium Valley Recompete small business incubator is designed to provide specialized training and entrepreneurship opportunities that are directly aligned with the strategic priorities of our community.

The collaboration between local businesses, educational institutions, and trade organizations, facilitated by this initiative, will ensure a well-rounded approach to economic development. By equipping our workforce with the necessary skills and competencies, we are not only supporting the growth of the lithium-based industries but are also enhancing our region's competitiveness and attractiveness to potential investors and business partners.

Moreover, the focus on equity and inclusivity within the Recompete initiative resonates deeply with our commitment at the IVRCC to ensure that the benefits of economic growth are accessible to all segments of our population. This project not only aims to provide training and employment opportunities but also to build a sustainable and diverse economic environment where all community members can thrive.

We commend the foresight and leadership of all stakeholders involved in the Lithium Valley Recompete Initiative and offer our full support to this vital project. We are committed to actively participating and contributing to its success. Thank you for considering this endorsement as part of your evaluation process. We are excited about the potential impact of this initiative and look forward to the opportunities it will bring to our region.

Sincerely,

Sher Cowie  
President/CEO

cc: File