

August 31, 2009

Subject: Expansion of the Green Hive in California

Dear California Energy Commission,

This letter serves as an official appeal to fund the expansion of The Green Hive in California.

The Green Hive will help the State of California move forward in energy development and sustainability practices. It will provide the physical space for people to come together and innovate design and energy infrastructure solutions for their unique context, as well as share ideas across projects.

Currently there are a number of centers (typically funded through IOU submissions to the CPUC for energy efficiency programs) in the State that aim for this holistic objective that have had mixed success. The Green Hive model will be successful because it is responding to the specific needs of practitioners like myself.

We need a physical space to exist where materials and innovative designs can be seen at the sample and pilot scale. We also need a repository for the massive amounts of information that are difficult/impossible to digitally archive. It's very difficult at the emerging stages of the Sustainability movement to gather enough information on the energy systems and sustainable materials you're attempting to source and to gain a conviction that the ones you choose are truly the "latest and greatest", will support the larger vision of the project, and have been peer reviewed to some degree. I believe that the Green Hive can help fill this void.

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Furthermore, we at the University of Southern California would like to utilize the Los Angeles Green Hive to support the research community and enhance our student experience. We believe that these types of facilities are crucial to support education initiatives and will help equip young people with the practical knowledge they will need to help drive California forward.

I hold Kris in the highest esteem and hope that I've conveyed to you the true loss you would realize by not allowing this innovative, knowledgeable, and positive-spirited individual to scale this useful concept throughout California.

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Sincerely,



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