

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0505

November 18, 2010

Ms. Ruth Coleman, Director  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296

**RE: Support for the Powerhouse Science Center's  
Proposition 84 - Nature Education Facilities Program Application**

Dear Ms. Coleman,

I am writing to support the Discovery Museum of Sacramento and the Powerhouse Science Center as it applies for funding from Proposition 84's Nature Education Facilities Program. Unfortunately, Sacramento was not awarded any funding from previous Proposition 84 grant applications. This funding will help build the Powerhouse Science Center's Earth & Space Sciences Center, which will be a landmark educational facility along Sacramento's riverfront.

The Discovery Museum of Sacramento, which will operate both the Powerhouse Science Center and the Earth & Space Sciences Center, has served the Sacramento region remarkably well for over 60 years. Unfortunately, their current site is inadequate to meet the needs of our region. At least 25% of school groups are turned away due to space constraints. When completed, the new Earth & Space Sciences Center will educate visitors on natural resources in a 13,000 square foot LEED-certified building. The building's educational features will center around Earth Systems Science, which is the study of the Earth's four spheres – hydrosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere. In addition, the center will feature a wide range of multi-media and interactive exhibits that will emphasize observing, interacting, understanding, and predicting our earth's environment. By learning about how human actions impact the Earth, visitors will gain a sense of environmental stewardship and how we can protect the environment for generations to come. The site will attract thousands of families and school groups each year.

I am pleased with the outstanding work the Discovery Museum of Sacramento has done to attract and educate nearly 100,000 visitors each year, and am pleased to endorse this project. I am confident that this grant will help build one of the nation's premier earth and space science centers. Thank you for thoughtful consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI  
Member of Congress