

MATSUI SUPPORTS SACRAMENTO'S BID FOR THE CA INSTITUTE OF REGENERATIVE MEDICINE HEADQUARTERS Sends

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Sends letter of Support to Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee

April 28, 2005

Thursday, April 28, 2005

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(Washington, DC) — Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) announced her staunch support for Sacramento's proposal to locate the headquarters of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) at One Capitol Mall in Sacramento. In a letter of support sent to Robert Klein, Chair of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, Matsui urged careful consideration of the full-range of benefits Sacramento would offer as the CIRM's headquarters, including the region's vital life sciences community, the region's infrastructure, its close proximity to the state's center of government, and Sacramento's low living and business costs. Additionally, Matsui will take an active role in highlighting Sacramento to all of the committee's members.

"I look forward to meeting with the entire site selection committee this weekend and highlighting all that our city of Sacramento brings to the table," stated Matsui. "For a myriad of reasons, from minimal costs to a central location and from nearness to government to infrastructure, Sacramento is the best location for the Stem Cell Institute's headquarters."

Continued Matsui, "At no point should we forget that this Institute is about the research of potentially life-saving cures. By selecting Sacramento, with its low cost of living and low cost of doing business, the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee could potentially insure that more dollars go to doing the actual research rather than administrative and over-head costs."

Text of the letter:

Mr. Robert Klein, Chair
Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
P.O. Box 99740
Emeryville, CA 94622-9740

Dear Mr. Klein,

I am writing in full support of the proposal made by the City of Sacramento to locate the headquarters facility of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) at One Capitol Mall in Sacramento. As the congressional representative for the City of Sacramento, I am firmly convinced that Sacramento not only possesses the necessary infrastructure and economic growth to become the future home of the headquarters facility of CIRM, but also a unique mix of strengths that will help ensure maximum success for this critically important public venture.

The Sacramento Region is home to a vital life sciences community which includes the Medical School of the University of California at Davis located at the UCD Medical Center in Sacramento. UCD is widely regarded as one of the finest research universities in the country and is a leader in pioneering bio-medical research with one of the largest university research budgets in the nation.

In addition to being the home of a thriving biomedical industry, the Sacramento Region also offers many other important qualities that make it an attractive home for the headquarters facility of CIRM. With three major freeway systems and an international airport, the Sacramento region serves as a gateway to the other regions of the state, and is best-positioned for accessing all of the state’s other metropolitan areas. Further, as a new public entity, interaction with a variety of state agencies and elected decision-makers will be important to the project’s success. The proposed site will enable CIRM to maintain its independent identity while efficiently developing effective working relationships with state government.

Finally, the Sacramento Region also boasts the lowest living and business costs among all the cities in contention to host the headquarter facility of CIRM. As a result, locating in Sacramento is likely to result in significant savings, and the funds that would be saved could then be used for important research for potentially life-saving cures. I know that all participants in this process agree that every dollar possible should be spent on research.

I strongly encourage you to choose the City of Sacramento as the future home for the headquarters of CIRM. I greatly look forward to working with you to make Sacramento the most successful Stem Cell Research facility in the world.

Sincerely,

DORIS O. MATSUI

Member of Congress

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