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September 9, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

***RE: AB 1476 (Committee on Budget) – Support
Request Governor’s Signature***

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), I am writing to convey our strong support for AB 1476 (Budget Cmte), which would amend the Budget Act of 2014 by providing \$50,000,000 in additional funds to the University for deferred maintenance and other one-time purposes. If the state economy continues to recover and General Fund revenues exceed projections, the bill also specifies that funding provided would become ongoing beginning in the 2015-16 fiscal year for the purpose of increasing enrollment of California students and improving student services. Additional State funding to help meet these critical needs would have a significant impact, particularly after several years of cutbacks and other fiscal challenges, in supporting UC’s efforts to educate the next generation of California’s workforce and develop innovation that drives California’s economy.

I am pleased to be joined by a coalition of many of our major stakeholders – including AFSCME 3299, the Council of University of California Faculty Associations, and the UC Student Association, along with many of other key union colleagues, in support of AB 1476. They all recognize the importance of the funding made available under AB 1476 to support the, in their words, “tremendous public benefit to California taxpayers” that UC and the California State University system provide.

Struggling just to meet basic costs, campuses have sporadically addressed only the most urgent deferred maintenance needs. The University's backlog has grown dramatically as many of the mechanical and other building systems in UC facilities

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constructed in the 1960s and 1970s have reached the end of their useful life. Perhaps most importantly, long-term failure to address deferred maintenance greatly increases the risk that catastrophic failure of mission-critical utility distribution systems would shut down an entire campus.

The bill would also allow us to address other important one-time needs. Several areas have been chronically underfunded for years, including instructional equipment replacement, instructional technology, and library materials. Even a small amount of funding committed to these important needs would be most welcome.

For these reasons, the University strongly supports AB 1476. As always, the University appreciates your consideration of this important bill. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me.

Yours very truly,


Janet Napolitano
President

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
The Honorable Das Williams
The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
The Honorable Kevin de León
The Honorable Carol Liu
The Honorable Marty Block
Provost Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President Steve Juarez