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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
BEN ALLEN

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, CHAIR  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS, CHAIR  
ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

November 8, 2021

Mr. Michael Drake  
President, University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Drake:

I write to ask the University of California (UC) to accept the California Public Employment Relations Board's (PERB) decision related to the recognition of Student Researchers United – UAW, who submitted a majority number of authorization cards to PERB in May.

As a UC alumnus, I know student researchers are an essential part of UC's mission. I understand UC's argument is that a subset of the 17,000-member bargaining unit may not qualify as employees under the state's Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act because they are compensated with external funding, despite performing essentially the same duties within the university system. I am hopeful that PERB will help all parties find an amicable solution, providing student researchers with the rights to which they are entitled, uplifting everyone who contributes to UC's stellar reputation in research and academia.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 651-4026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen".

BEN ALLEN  
Senator, 26<sup>th</sup> District