

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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May 17, 2013

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliott III
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Francis P. Mulvey
Commissioner
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Begeman, and Commissioner Mulvey:

As members of the Congressional Bicameral High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus, we write to respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to give full and fair consideration to the California High Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10801 for the construction of the high-speed passenger rail line between Madera and Fresno, California.

Passenger rail is vital to the success of our country. It promotes economic growth, creates jobs, and fosters urban and rural community development. Bold investments in our nation's infrastructure will help us build a foundation for a stronger future and compete in the global economy. California's high-speed rail project will lay the groundwork for high-speed rail service in the U.S., while also generating much needed jobs and economic development.

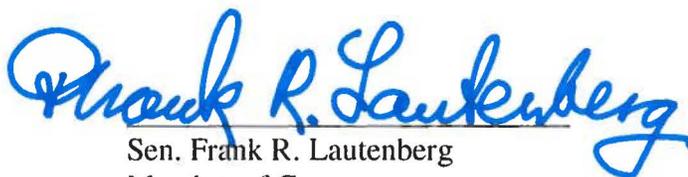
We strongly believe that the Board's appropriate review of the project should not result in lengthy delays. The first phase of the project is funded with substantial federal investment. Lengthy project delays increase the cost to build the project and result in less return for the federal investment. Additionally, President Obama has worked vigorously to advance high-speed rail projects and minimize red tape for projects of national importance. To meet the President's objectives, the STB should not unnecessarily delay a project that has already received substantial federal, state and local review.

We welcome the Surface Transportation Board's careful consideration of this important project, and we thank the Board for previously extending the deadline for public comments on the Authority's petition to ensure full public participation. We look forward to the Board's full and fair consideration.

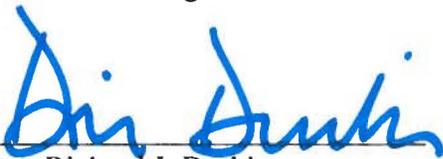
Sincerely,



Rep. Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg
Member of Congress



Sen. Richard J. Durbin
Member of Congress



Rep. Corrine Brown
Member of Congress



Rep. David E. Price
Member of Congress



Rep. George Miller
Member of Congress



Rep. Michael Honda
Member of Congress



Rep. Adam Schiff
Member of Congress



Rep. Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress



Rep. André Carson
Member of Congress



Rep. Paul Tonko
Member of Congress