

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As members of the California Congressional delegation, we write to express our strong support for the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority)'s two applications for funding from the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program for projects outside the Northeast Corridor (FSP-National). This project is a key part of the state's rail modernization plan, linking key regional passenger rail systems and completing a vital milestone toward the future high-speed rail corridor from San Francisco to Los Angeles.

The Authority's first application requests \$2.8 billion to complete construction, testing, and certification of the 119-mile Central Valley Segment, and begin passenger service. Funding will also extend service to Merced in the north, and Bakersfield in the south to create a two-track, 171-mile electrified high-speed passenger rail line connecting the cities of Merced, Fresno and Bakersfield. Specifically, the funds will be used to construct a second track along the Central Valley Segment, construct Fresno station and purchase six electric trains for testing and passenger use. These elements of the project have completed all design and environmental permitting work, and are now shovel-ready. FSP-National Program funds would be matched by \$706 million in state Cap-and-Trade funds for a total project cost of about \$3.5 billion.

The Authority's second application requests \$194 million to fund design for the next critical elements of the project – additional northern and southern extensions to San José and Palmdale. These sections have already completed environmental review, so this application would fund the careful, thorough design needed for high-speed trains to traverse and tunnel through California's varied topography and connect major regions of the state. The requested federal funds would be matched by \$48 million in state Cap-and-Trade funds.

Once in service, the Central Valley Segment's zero-emission trains and infrastructure will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 32,720 metric tons by 2030, and reduce vehicle miles traveled by 183 million miles annually, contributing significantly to the Biden Administration's climate and transportation goals. Ultimately, California High Speed Rail's San Francisco to Los Angeles segment, once in operation, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions on average 2 million metric tons annually—the equivalent of taking 400,000 gas-powered vehicles off the roads.

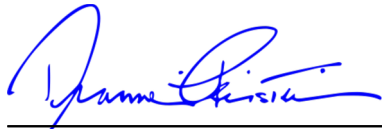
These two grant applications are part of an on-going federal-state partnership that has already resulted in significant job opportunities and economic growth. Already, the project has created more than 10,000 labor or union jobs, most of which have been filled by Central Valley residents and men and women from disadvantaged communities. It has employed nearly 800

small, disadvantaged, and disabled veteran businesses, and it has generated nearly \$6.0 billion in labor income and \$16.0 billion in total economic impact across the State.

To this end, California has contributed \$21.7 billion to the project, representing 85% of the total funds invested thus far. We are the only state in the country to have committed this level of funding and this remains the only project in the nation which has advanced electrified rail at over 200mph speeds to the construction stage.

Please consider the enormous value that funding California High-Speed Rail will provide. The projected ridership for the San Francisco to Los Angeles corridor would make it the most traveled intercity passenger service in the nation. The requested funding will improve the health, safety, access, connectivity, and economic vitality of underserved communities in California's Central Valley. With work well underway throughout the state, we urge you to award funds to complete construction for the Inaugural High-Speed Service between Merced, Fresno, and Bakersfield and advance design needed to complete the San Francisco to Los Angeles corridor.


Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



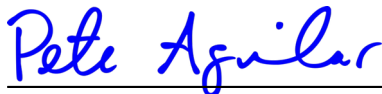
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



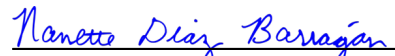
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



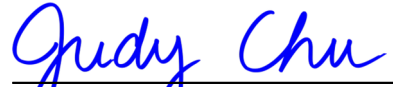
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



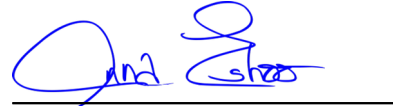
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



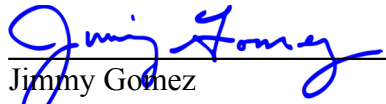
Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



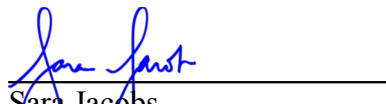
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
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Jared Huffman
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Sara Jacobs
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
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Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



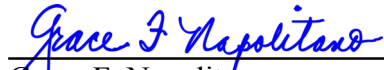
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



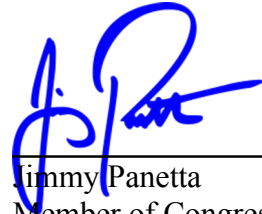
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



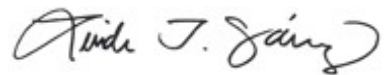
Jimmy Panetta
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Katie Porter
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Adam B. Schiff
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Brad Sherman
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Eric Swalwell
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Mark Takano

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Mike Thompson

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Juan Vargas

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