Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1120 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood and Administrator Szabo:

As Members of Congress from the state of California, we write in strong support of California's high-speed passenger rail application for Recovery Act and FY2010 funding. This funding could be put to immediate use in California, creating jobs, spurring economic opportunities, and ensuring the construction of the "backbone" of California's high-speed rail system.

When it comes to constructing high-speed rail, California is far ahead of any other state or region. Californians voted in 2008 for more than $9 billion in bond funding toward California's high-speed rail and became the only state in the nation which has passed a high-speed rail measure. Planning and engineering work for our 800-mile system has been ongoing for more than 14 years and significant environmental review work has already been completed. The state is ready to move on segments that can be operational, produce revenue and lay the groundwork for completion of the entire train system. California is therefore uniquely positioned to receive and quickly utilize stimulus and FY2010 funds.

Along with the state's 20% matching funds, the federal funding California is seeking would create approximately 64,000 additional, quality jobs throughout the state, including in regions that have been hit hard by our economic downturn. Furthermore, reallocating the funding that the Governor of Florida recently rejected to California would allow our state to complete the "backbone" of the system from Merced to Bakersfield and to continue the construction of track either north toward the Bay Area or south, past Bakersfield, to the Tehachapi Mountains. California is ready and eager to take advantage of these rejected funds.

Investing in high-speed rail in California will change the fabric of our state and our country, and will help in the development of jobs and local economies. We have the support of the voters, the federal and state legislators, local governments, and the business, labor and

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environmental communities. We, therefore, urge you to fully fund California's high-speed rail application.

Sincerely,

Rep. Laura Richardson
Co-Chair, California
High Speed Rail Caucus

Rep. Jim Costa
Co-Chair, California
High Speed Rail Caucus

Rep. Zoe Lofgren
Co-Chair, California
High Speed Rail Caucus

Rep. Howard Berman

Rep. George Miller

Rep. Linda Sánchez

Rep. Dennis Cardoza

Rep. Sam Farr

Rep. Joe Baca

Rep. Adam Schiff

Rep. Judy Chu

Rep. Bob Filner

Rep. Jerry McNerney

Rep. John Garamendi

Rep. Brad Sherman