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18TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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April 7, 2010

California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Chairman Pringle  
925 L Street, Suite 1425  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Merced to Fresno Segment

Dear Chairman Pringle:

I am writing to encourage the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) to proceed with further review of route A-2 for the Merced to Fresno segment of California's High Speed Rail. Route A-2 meets the CHSRA's guiding principles to select alignments along existing transportation corridors and is also the most cost effective and efficient option. I urge completion of this analysis in an expeditious fashion so that the State of California's application for funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) can be competitive.

I wish to thank the CHSRA staff for recommending to remove routes A-3 and A-4 from further review of the alternatives analysis, however, I am opposed to further review of route A-1. I understand that the staff would like to have two routes for consideration, however it is essential that CHSRA move forward with this review in the most expeditious fashion.

Of all the routes under consideration, Route A-2 shows the greatest potential to meet the CHSRA's guiding principles, which provide "The system will maximize the use of existing transportation corridors and railroad rights of way in order to minimize the impacts on California's treasured landscape." The Greater Merced County High Speed Rail Committee, Merced County, the City of Merced and the Merced Farm Bureau have all identified A-2 as being the cost effective, providing the greatest efficiency, causing the least amount of impact to farmland and other planning processes. A-2 clearly needs to be the focus of the CHSRA's review.

A-1, by contrast, would pose impacts to prime farmland and other natural resources and would increase costs and travel times. Additionally, obtaining permits for A-1 would be extremely challenging and would result in significant delays, putting the Merced to Fresno segment at serious risk of receiving ARRA funds.

Again, I urge your expeditious review of A-2 for the Merced to Fresno segment. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Cardoza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "C".

Dennis Cardoza  
Member of Congress

Cc: Tom Umberg, Vice Chair, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
David Crane, Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Rod Diridon, Sr., Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Richard Katz, Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Lynn Schenk, Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Fran Florez, Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Judge Quentin L. Kopp, Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Russ Burns, Board Member, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Carrie Pourvahidi Interim Executive Director, California High-Speed Rail Authority  
Carrie Bowen, Regional Director, California High-Speed Rail Authority