

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 27, 2009

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

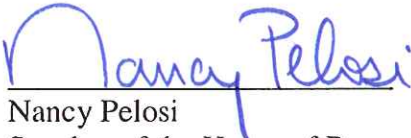
As Members of Congress from the State of California, we write to commend the bold vision and federal funding commitment of this Administration to the creation of a high-speed rail system in the United States. The \$8 billion for high-speed and intercity rail investments made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), further supported by the Administration's budget proposal for \$1 billion annually for FY 2010 through FY 2014 for high-speed rail development, is an important infrastructure investment and will help create thousands of high-paying jobs in California and across our country.

As you develop the Department's strategic plan for high-speed rail, we ask that you consider the following criteria in evaluating projects to be funded:

- A long-term foundation for a transformational shift in intercity mobility for Americans;
- Demonstration of substantial public benefits, including environmental mitigation, energy savings and congestion reduction;
- The potential for "true" high-speed rail with dedicated corridor segments for trains traveling at speeds of 150 mph or more, no grade-crossings, and no mixed traffic;
- Completion of program-level environmental clearances; and
- Committed non-federal funding support, including state financial commitments and potential for attracting private investment.

We believe these criteria will best focus federal support and investments to high speed rail corridors that can bring significant benefit to the nation. We look forward to working with you and the President on building a high-speed rail network that will move our transportation infrastructure into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Sincerely,

  
Nancy Pelosi

Speaker of the House of Representatives



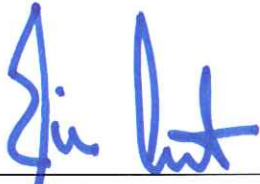
Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senate



Ellen O. Tauscher  
House of Representatives



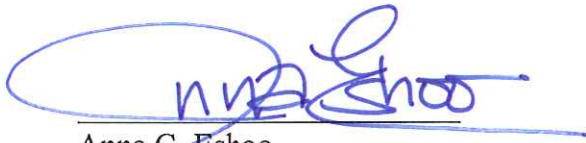
Zoe Lofgren  
House of Representatives



Jim Costa  
House of Representatives



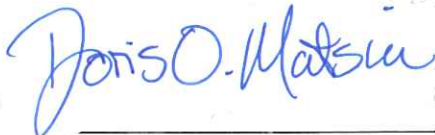
George Miller  
House of Representatives



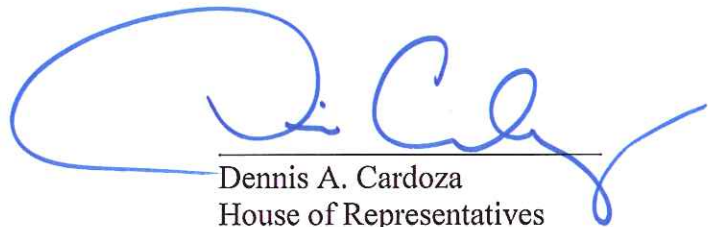
Anna G. Eshoo  
House of Representatives



Jane Harman  
House of Representatives



Doris O. Matsui  
House of Representatives



Dennis A. Cardoza  
House of Representatives



Howard L. Berman  
House of Representatives



Bob Filner  
House of Representatives



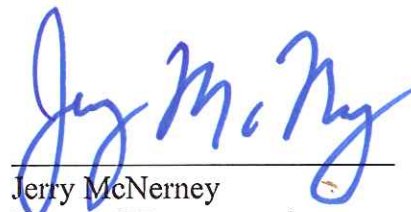
Maxine Waters  
House of Representatives



Sam Farr  
House of Representatives



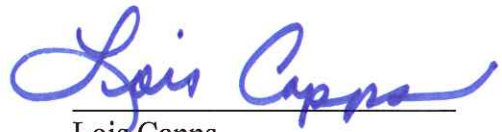
Laura Richardson  
House of Representatives



Jerry McNerney  
House of Representatives



Michael M. Honda  
House of Representatives



Lois Capps  
House of Representatives



Barbara Lee  
House of Representatives



Jackie Speier  
House of Representatives



Mike Thompson  
House of Representatives