



For Immediate Release

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State Assembly Member Cathleen Galgiani Showcases Broad Support for California's High-Speed Train

SACRAMENTO –State Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani, author of the High Speed Rail Bond approved by voters in 2008, today submitted nearly 200 letters of support gathered by labor, business, environmental and civic groups endorsing California's application for \$4.78 billion in federal stimulus funding for a high speed train.

"This is an impressive list of supporters for a vital project that will improve our state's mobility, environment and quality of life and will produce hundreds of thousands of jobs while pumping billions of dollars into our economy" announced Galgiani.

The Assemblymember presented the letters, representing thousands of individuals and organizations, to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board meeting in Sacramento Thursday. They are copies, of letters sent to the White House, the Federal Railroad Administration and Congress, she remarked, "intended to demonstrate California is truly ready to put federal stimulus dollars to work now."

The Obama Administration is expected to announce as early as this month the apportionment of \$8 billion in stimulus funding for high-speed train development under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. California is widely expected to get a significant share of those funds. Combined with matching state, local and private funding, the federal infusion could generate nearly \$10 billion to help launch the initial Anaheim-to-San Francisco link in a system that eventually will stretch to 800 miles, serving most of the state's major cities.

"The broad-based, bipartisan support represented by these letters show that all of California is united behind the state's bid," Galgiani said. "For every \$1 billion spent on infrastructure projects, jobs are created for 18,000 Californians. Every dollar spent on infrastructure projects comes back to the state's economy six-fold," she added.

"We have come together because the building of a high-speed train system in California will create sustainable green jobs, spur economic growth and protect our environment," says one of the letters Galgiani included, a joint statement from the Sierra Club, the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Labor Federation. "Federal funds would be put to use right away in California, consistent with the president's vision of an immediate economic stimulus program."

In another letter, the Greenbelt Alliance, a Bay Area open space advocacy group, said it supports high-speed train projects in the region and "know that it will provide significant Bay Area jobs, encourage efficient re-use of land near transit stations, reduce traffic congestion and thereby reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Those letters were typical of the dozens Galgiani referenced in her appearance before the Board Thursday. Copies of the letters can be found on the California High-Speed Rail Authority's Web site at:

http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20091208135317_LettersOfSupport.pdf

Galgiani helped lead a delegation of dozens of legislators, civic leaders and business representatives in lobbying federal authorities and members of Congress in Washington, D.C., last September, calling on the Obama Administration to recognize California's high-speed rail leadership with a major share of the stimulus funding.

Galgiani noted at the board meeting that the Assembly Transportation Committee will hold a special hearing next Monday, January 11, at 1:30pm in the Capitol to hear from the Authority about its recently released Business Plan and more from citizens and organizations around the state who have rallied to support California's high-speed train.

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