



February 1, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Caltrain Commuter Coalition (C3), an organization comprised of employers along the Caltrain corridor, we are writing to express our strong support for Caltrain's Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) and the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) pending approval from the Federal Transit Administration.

Caltrain serves more than 65,000 daily passengers and links the major economic centers of San Francisco and the Silicon Valley. This corridor is home to the nation's fastest-growing companies, which provide 14 percent of California's Gross Domestic Product and 20 percent of the State's tax revenue.

In order for businesses on the Caltrain Corridor to continue to be among the nation's most productive employers, it is essential that the Caltrain commuter rail system be improved to accommodate more riders and more service.

Over the past decade, Caltrain's ridership has more than doubled and demand continues to grow. The PCEP will transform Caltrain from a diesel-based service to a modernized rail system featuring high-performance electric trains that enhance capacity and allow the system to deliver cleaner, quieter, faster, more frequent service to the region. With an electrified system between San Francisco and San Jose that enables faster acceleration and more frequent headways, Caltrain will be able to increase capacity and serve more riders at more stations.

Not only will the PCEP improve performance and increase ridership, it will provide substantial environmental benefits by eliminating over 176,000 metric tons of CO2, and removing 619,000 daily vehicle miles from the region's roadways.

We understand that the FFGA was sent to Congress for a 30-day review period on January 18, 2017 and will be eligible for completion on February 18, 2017. To achieve the project benefits, it is essential that an FFGA be completed in time to award a Notice to Proceed (NTP) prior to March 1, 2017 to the contractors that have been selected to construct the PCEP infrastructure and deliver new electric trains. If a NTP is not granted prior to March 1, PCEP will experience cost increases that threaten the viability of the project.

We offer our full support to the PCEP and strongly encourage you to help our region continue to create jobs and fuel the national economy by investing in this critical transportation improvement.

Sincerely,



Jim Wunderman, CEO
Bay Area Council (BAC)



Rosanne Foust, CEO
San Mateo County Economic
Development Association (SAMCEDA)



Carl Guardino, CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
(SVLG)



Brendon Harrington
Director, Transportation
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Ariane Hogan
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cc: Matt Welbes, Federal Transit Administration Executive Director