



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

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Eighteenth District  
California*

March 22, 2017

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen, Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman <sup>Rodney</sup> Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member <sup>Nita</sup> Lowey,

As you develop continuing appropriations legislation to fund the government beyond April 28, 2017, we urge your continued support of the Caltrain Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) within the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant Program. This shovel-ready project will create 10,000 jobs nationwide and is critical to the continued economic growth of Silicon Valley.

Many of us wrote to the Committee last year in support of the Core Capacity Program and specifically the PCEP. We thank you for working in a bipartisan manner to include \$100 million for the PCEP in the Committee Report for the Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations bill in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress. The Senate Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill also included strong support for the Core Capacity Program and passed the Senate by a vote of 89 to 8 on May 19, 2016.

As we stated in our previous letter, the electrification and modernization of the Caltrain rail corridor is much-needed and long overdue. Rail service has operated on the corridor for over 150 years but Caltrain's ridership has more than doubled in the last decade, with rush-hour trips now consistently beyond 100 percent of seated capacity. This forces thousands of employees at some of our nation's largest and most innovative companies to choose between overcrowded highways and overcrowded trains on the San Francisco Peninsula. The PCEP is expected to nearly double ridership capacity, improve daily air quality on the corridor by 97 percent, and reduce the burden on the region's roadways by 619,000 vehicle miles per day.

The Capital Investment Grant Program has proven extremely popular in Congress on both the authorizing and appropriations committees because of the bipartisan recognition that transit investment creates jobs and spurs economic growth well after the projects have been constructed. Nowhere is this more evident than in Silicon Valley with Caltrain. The PCEP will create 10,000 jobs nationwide during the construction period and will increase daily ridership on the corridor to over 100,000, allowing for continued growth in one of our nation's most important economic engines.

The PCEP is now closer than ever to becoming a reality and requires only the execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) by the Secretary of Transportation in order to begin construction. Since our last letter, the FFGA has been approved by Federal Transit Administration career staff with the second-highest possible rating and forwarded to the Secretary for final approval. Over \$1 billion in state and local funding, state and federal environmental approval, and contracts have all been secured. Continued support for this program in Congress will ensure that construction on the project begins this summer.

Once again, we urge you to maintain strong bipartisan support for the Core Capacity Program and specifically the PCEP in the continuing Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriations that is currently under negotiation. This project is ready to begin construction as soon as federal funding is secured. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our important request.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress