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LETTERS

No Good Reason to Block Caltrain's Planned Upgrade

Caltrain carries 65,000 daily commuters between San Francisco and the Silicon Valley.



Elaine Chao appears before the Senate. *PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES*

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Your editorial “[Chao’s Choo-Choo Stop](#)” (March 6) repeats several misconceptions I’d like to clear up. Caltrain carries 65,000 daily commuters between San Francisco and the Silicon Valley. Upgrading its aging diesel trains with new electric engines is just the type of infrastructure investment the president says he supports. Instead, the White House and California Republicans are blocking the project over their opposition to the separate high-speed rail project.

This modernization is desperately needed. Blocking federal funding for the project—which will double ridership, slash travel time and remove thousands of cars from congested highways—is foolhardy.

Construction was set to begin last week, but the delay has idled contractors at the cost of millions of dollars. Worse, this action has jeopardized nearly 10,000 new jobs nationwide.

There’s no good reason for this delay. Caltrain deserves a fair review based solely on the merits of the project, not to be killed over unrelated objections.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D., Calif.)

Washington