

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2007

Honorable Fabian Nunez
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249

Dear Speaker Nunez:

We are writing to express our serious concern regarding the impact that a reduction in available public transit funding and diversion of transit bond funds could have on critical transportation projects across the state. During budget negotiations, we urge you to make transportation dollars available for intended projects and reject efforts to reallocate these funds for other purposes.

California taxpayers supported the transportation bond measure during last November's elections to relieve congestion, improve movement of goods, enhance air quality and strengthen the safety and security of the transportation system in our region. If enacted, a budget revise which diverts those funds for other obligations could significantly underfund or otherwise delay important projects needed to reduce congestion and improve safety in our communities. It is critical that we use these funds for their intended purpose.

The budget revise could also significantly limit the ability of our communities to find dollars needed for a local match to federal funds. California is largely a donor state. As Members of Congress who represent California, we are working hard to bring more federal dollars to California. However, in order to secure federal dollars, the state must provide the local match required to obtain guaranteed federal funds. If we are to reverse the donor state trend, these funds must be made available for projects such as transportation.

We recognize that the budget is tight and that priorities may compete for limited funds. However, it is critical that state transportation dollars be made available for transportation projects and not be reallocated for other obligations. We urge you to make transportation dollars available for intended projects and reject efforts to reallocate these funds for other purposes during budget negotiations.

Sincerely,


Hilda L. Adis


Ellen O. Tausch


Lynn Walser


Diana G. Watson

Daiso O. Matsui

Lois Capps

Jusan Davis

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