



Item 49

California State Senate

ABEL MALDONADO

FIFTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT

February 8, 2008

Mr. James Ghielmetti and Commissioners
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Proposition 1B - Proposed Intercity Rail Proposition 1B Projects

Dear Chairman Ghielmetti and Commissioners:

We, the undersigned State Legislators strongly support the Department's \$25 million identified for capital improvements along the Coastal Rail Corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

A coalition of agencies has been working to establish new train services between downtown San Francisco and downtown Los Angeles based on direction from the State Assembly since the early 1990's (House Resolution 39).

Two transportation planning agencies have programmed a combined \$1 million in Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RIP) funds for preliminary engineering of the required capital improvements. The Union Pacific Railroad Company and other host railroads are cooperating with the project.

Over 20 transportation and local government agencies have passed resolutions of support for this service, including;

- The Caltrain Board of Directors in the north,
- The Los Angeles-San Luis Obispo-San Diego Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN) in the south,
- And regional transportation planning agencies and cities along the corridor.

This service will connect to two most populated cities in California, promote economic development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and close a gap in service as recognized in the adopted California State Rail Plan.

Sincerely,

(The attached list of State Senators and Assemblymembers)



Senator Abel Maldonado
Fifteenth District



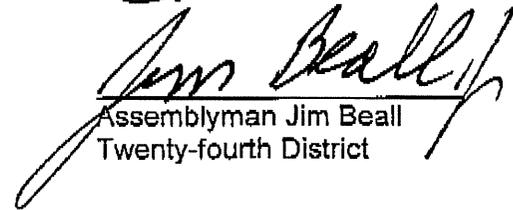
Senator Jeff Benham
Twelfth District



Assemblywoman Anna Marie Caballero
Twenty-eighth District



Senator Sheila James Kuehl
Twenty-third District

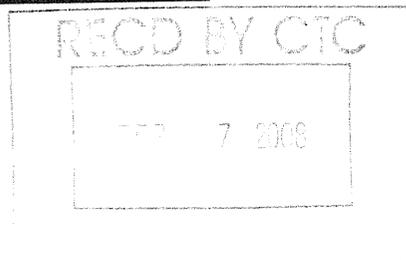


Assemblyman Jim Beall
Twenty-fourth District

FROM THE DESK OF DAVID WEISMAN

February 4, 2008

Mr. James Ghielmetti and Commissioners
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street,
Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUPPORT FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INTERCITY RAIL PROPOSITION 1B PROJECTS**

Dear Chairman Ghielmetti and Commissioners:

I understand that the Commission will be reviewing the Department's list of intercity rail projects in the near future in connection with the electorate's passing of Proposition 1B. As a supporter of 1B and I wish to take this opportunity to express my strong support for the **entire** list of projects, and especially the \$25 million for the Coast Corridor.

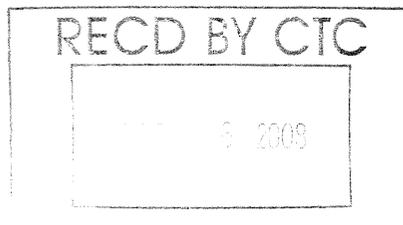
As both the official Amtrak Station Host at San Luis Obispo, and the chairman of the Morro Bay Community Promotions Committee, I have witnessed the increasing ridership to the central coast since the expansion of the Surfliners. People from Santa Barbara and south are now using the trains to take "day trips" to our county, and these added trips bring us tourism revenue, while reducing congestion on the 101 freeway, which is particularly bad in the Santa Barbara area.

I have proposed introducing local programs such as the "car free" getaway weekend, which will require more reliability of schedules and increased frequency of services, and, just as with a highways, our railroads need more capacity and improvements to track and signaling to allow better performance.

The proposed Coast Daylight service between Los Angeles and San Francisco is especially important on the central coast. Tourism drives our local economy, and to date we have been unable to use "rail" as a way to tap into possible tourists extending from the Monterey to the San Francisco Peninsulas. A dedicated, local train, with a reliable schedule would have enormous potential—especially for Bay Area students traveling to and from Cal Poly University/SLO. I urge you to support funding for this and the other intercity rail passenger routes in California.

Yours truly,

David Weisman



960 Aspen Street
Chico, California 95928

4 February 2008

Mr. James Ghielmetti and Commissioners
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Ghielmetti and Commissioners:

At your upcoming meeting on February 14th I would like to urge you to fund intercity rail projects to the fullest extent possible.

California faces transportation gridlock with crowded freeways and airports and one of the means of helping to cope with stress in those systems is to expand intercity passenger rail.

In particular, I would ask for the Commission to consider providing the \$25 million requested for infrastructure improvements so that the Coast Daylight service (San Francisco-Los Angeles via the coastal route) can be launched as soon as possible.

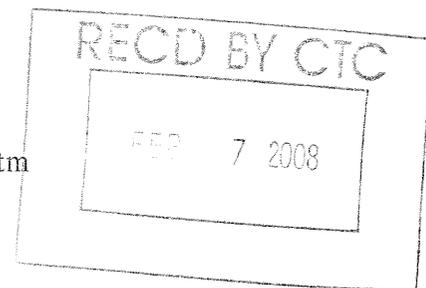
The Coast Daylight service will restore intercity passenger service to San Francisco, and link that city directly with Los Angeles for the first time in more than 35 years. Other intermediate cities served will include San Jose, Salinas, San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara.

This train will serve not only our fellow Californians but help significantly in attracting visitors from around the world anxious to travel easily (and not by car or by air) within our beautiful state.

Very truly yours,

Greg Fischer

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February 2, 2008

Mr. James Ghielmetti and Commissioners
 California Transportation Commission (CTC)
 1120 N Street, Room 2221 (MS-52)
 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ghielmetti:

I am writing to ask you and your associates to support *inter city rail initiatives* for our state.

I know that the electorate has recently approved bond-funding (1B) for improving infrastructure and transportation within the state boundaries and I want to encourage you to fund appropriate rail projects, such as the Amtrak Coast Daylight service.

I recently attended a meeting in San Luis Obispo where RailPAC (www.railpac.org) provided information and justifications for improving rail services.

I was very impressed and I want to convey to you as well as my local elected state representatives that I hope there will not be any further delays in funding these projects.

I anticipate that these transportation and infrastructure projects will stimulate our state economy and keep people working at a critical time in our state financial situation.

Further delays will only escalate project costs and result in less return on our investments.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Arthur James "A.J." Farrar, M.S.

AjfJamesGhielmettiCTC1BInterCityRailSupportLtr-2-2-08

Xcs: Assemblyman John Laird; Assemblywoman Anna Caballero; Senator Abel Maldonado; Senator Jeff Denham; Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger; TAMC; TRAC; Railpac;