



The best of the
San Francisco Bay Area

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February 17, 2017

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

RE: Core Capacity Grant Agreement for Caltrain Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

In just a few days, you will have the opportunity to execute a Core Capacity Grant Agreement that will modernize our Caltrain commuter rail system, a generational project of huge economic importance to workers and businesses in the San Francisco-Silicon Valley region and beyond. We respectfully urge you to approve that grant without delay.

This corridor is a tremendous economic success story, generating jobs for residents, tax receipts for governments, products and technologies that have transformed the ways that we live and work, and business purchases and expansion offices that extend economic benefits across the entire nation. In order to sustain this prosperity and keep this innovation region ahead of competitor regions around the world, government and business leaders have worked together for years on a plan to electrify the Caltrain commuter rail system. When complete, it will provide expanded capacity, improved speeds, reduced noise and pollution impacts on local communities, and greater reliability. Employers in this corridor view these benefits from Caltrain electrification as absolutely critical to the continued economic competitiveness of this region.

The majority of the approximately \$2 billion for this project comes from local, regional, and state sources. The requested \$647 million Core Capacity Grant is the final piece of the funding package and will enable the equipment suppliers across the nation and the construction companies in the Bay Area to immediately begin working. It's a smart investment in modernizing and relieving overcrowding on a successful existing commuter system, exactly the type of investment envisioned for the Core Capacity Grant program.

We are united in our support for this project and urge you to authorize the Core Capacity Grant Agreement at your earliest possible opportunity. Again, thank you for returning to public service in this important role and for your leadership to modernize and improve our nation's transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

San Mateo County/Silicon Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne LeClair".

Anne LeClair, President & CEO)

Cc: Board of Directors