

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

We are writing to express California's continued commitment to the President's high-speed rail initiative and to ask that the \$2.4 billion in Federal grants recently returned be redirected to our high-speed rail initiative. We believe this is an opportunity for the Administration to further its investment in the project that demonstrates the greatest potential for success. Awarding these funds to California will advance the President's goals for high-speed rail, as expressed in the State of the Union.

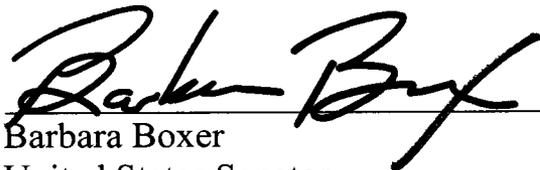
California is leading the Nation in the development of high-speed rail. As you know, voters in our state have committed over \$9 billion in bonds to high-speed rail - a unique level of public support that demonstrates that our state is a reliable, long term partner in this initiative. Combined with Federal grants, we have over \$5.5 billion in funds allocated for construction that will begin in 2012. Californians know that these additional federal funds represent over 80,000 new manufacturing, construction, and technology jobs in our state. We are eager to expand our partnership with the Department of Transportation and get to work.

It is now clear that California will lead the way in demonstrating the viability of high speed rail to the rest of the country. We are ready to do so and look forward to working with the Department of Transportation to see the high-speed rail is a success in California, and the entire nation.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator