

DORIS O. MATSUI
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0506

WASHINGTON OFFICE.
2371 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0506
(202) 225-7163

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROBERT T. MATSUI U.S. COURTHOUSE 501
1 STREET, SUITE 12-600 SACRAMENTO, CA
95814
(916) 498-5600
<http://matsui.house.gov>

December 19, 2019

Lenny Mendonca
Chair
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Mendonca,

I write in support of the California High Speed Rail Authority's efforts to pursue a Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield interim operating segment with stops at Kingsffulare and Madera. The Merced-Fresno-Bakersfield interim operating segment will provide high-speed rail service to Californians and leverage the maximum degree of connectivity to other improving rail services.

This new interim operating segment will be deployed in coordination with improvements included in the State Rail Plan north of Merced to Sacramento and will deliver significant benefits to Californians throughout the region. Under the new plan, faster, more frequent passenger rail service will be extended throughout the corridor reducing travel times for passengers between Sacramento and Bakersfield by up to 100 minutes. Additionally, because of the shift from diesel to electrically powered trains, the interim operating segment will help improve air quality throughout the Central Valley. Given these numerous benefits, it is expected this proposal will provide the highest ridership and revenue potential of any Central Valley option.

I strongly support expanding high-speed rail in Sacramento and across California. Successfully establishing this early interim service is a crucial first step toward implementing a high-speed rail system between the Bay Area, Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

Sincerely,



DORIS O. MATSUI
Member of Congress

cc Brian Kelly, CEO; Brian Annis, CFO; Chad Edison, CalSTA