



MINISTRY
OF INDUSTRY, TRADE
AND TOURISM

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SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR TRADE

January 20, 2020

Mr. Brian Kelly
Chief Executive Officer
California High-Speed Rail Authority
770 L Street, Suite 620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Kelly,

The Secretary of State for Trade, in the name of the Government of Spain, would like to take the opportunity of the upcoming Business Plan 2020 to endorse and support the development of the High Speed Rail Program in California.

California has many similarities with Spain in terms of climate, geography, population or extension. It is well known that the development of the High Speed Rail Network in our country has brought important benefits to our economic and social development.

The development of a High speed rail network helps to build an environmentally sustainable economy as gradually moves cars away from the highways. It also eases congestion in overcrowded highways and airports. This allows each mode of transportation to contribute in the most advantageous way to Californian sustainable economic and social development.

The approach adopted by the CHSRA -what we could call "the building block approach"- is very similar to the one used in Spain: an incremental development of project sections and trunk lines that has ultimately led to the development of the largest HSR network in Europe, second largest High Speed Rail network in the world after China.

It is also useful to outline that, in our experience, there is no high-speed rail without electrification. Only a true High Speed Rail electrified system would fully exploit the positive environmental externalities and be coherent with the renewable energy objectives set by California. The 119 miles-long section currently under construction in the Central Valley will be an excellent test for the first HSR operating system in California and the United States.

I am confident that through this program California will be, once more, at the forefront of technology, sustainability and quality of living.

Yours sincerely,



Xiana Margarida Méndez Bértolo