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California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY

October 10, 2017

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

RE: Support for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' 2017 TIGER Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the State Senator representing the 19th Senate District, which encompasses all of Santa Barbara County, I am writing to express my support for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG) 2017 application for the United States Department of Transportation's Transportation Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program for the U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities project.

This project will provide multiple transportation improvements including the addition of a High Occupancy Vehicle lane, new commuter rail service, intercity transit service, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Considering the U.S. 101 is the only major highway connecting the central coast to both northern and southern California and an estimated county population growth from 432,895 to 507,000 people in 2035; it is critical that these transportation infrastructure improvements occur in a timely manner. U.S. 101 and Interstate 5 are the only two north-south interregional highways between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

When Interstate 5 is closed due to harsh weather conditions, traffic accidents, or other environmental hazards, U.S. 101 absorbs the excess volume of traffic and freight movement. Santa Barbara County has key trading partners in the San Joaquin Valley, San Francisco Bay Area, and Southern California and serves as a critical link for interregional goods movement. The corridor provides access from California's Central Coast agricultural operations to markets around the country.

Easing congestion creates significant travel time savings, improved regional accessibility, increased safety and reduced environmental degradations. It promotes economic livelihood for the region through ease of freight movement, and simpler means of commuting to employment sectors. It will also help meet California's state Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets.

For these reasons, I urge you to give favorable consideration to SBCAG's grant application for the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
State Senator, 19th District

HBJ: bh