



September 20, 2012

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
State Capitol  
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Support Letter for AB 1779 and SB 1225–San Joaquin and LOSSAN Intercity Rail JPAs

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Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) Board of Directors, I am pleased to submit our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1779 and Senate Bill (SB) 1225, which would enable the transfer of administrative responsibility of the San Joaquin and LOSSAN intercity passenger rail (IPR) service from the Department of Transportation to a new joint powers authorities (JPA).

We appreciate that AB 1779 and SB 1225 follow the model of the CCJPA. We believe our structure of local representation and regional management provides an excellent model to allow a JPA to manage these IPR trains and improve service performance. The transfer of the Capitol Corridor IPR trains to the CCJPA has allowed for the steady improvement of the trains:

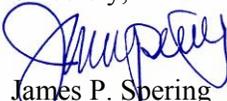
- Monthly ridership and revenue records set for 26 continuous months;
- Highest on-time performance in the Amtrak system for three straight years;
- System operating (farebox) ratio improved from 30% in 1998 to 50% today;
- Strong federal, state, and regional support through the active involvement of the locally-represented members of the CCJPA Board of Directors;
- Passenger involvement in service planning decisions and related amenities; and
- Leverage resources of member agencies to enhance joint marketing activities.

Notwithstanding the support of the CCJPA, we want to go on record that any subsequent agreements and contracts relating to the transfer of these trains to a JPA must not denigrate the operation and funding for the Capitol Corridor IPR trains and must not adversely impact the CCJPA's Interagency Transfer Agreement with the state as well as any related contractual agreements with the state and Amtrak.

Lastly, the CCJPA needs to acknowledge its strong, positive partnership with Caltrans, and specifically with the Division of Rail. The CCJPA believes that if the administrative management of these trains were to be transferred to a JPA, the involvement and participation of the state must continue in order to maintain funding programs (both operating and capital), manage overall state IPR planning matters for the federal government, and assist with related state and federal IPR policy issues.

To that end, the CCJPA respectfully requests that you sign AB 1779 and SB 1225.

Sincerely,

  
James P. Spering  
Chair

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cc: CCJPA Board of Directors  
Brian Kelly, Secretary - Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
Malcolm Dougherty, Director – Caltrans