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**transportation
authority**

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Executive Director

September 6, 2012

The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
State Capitol Bldg., 10th & L Streets
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1779 – The Intercity Passenger Rail Act of 2012
Position: Support

Dear Governor Brown,

On behalf of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, I am writing to indicate a position of support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1779, which would enable the transfer of administrative responsibility of the San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service from the Department of Transportation to a new Joint Powers Authority.

AB 1779 follows the model of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) and would enable regional governance/management of the existing San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service between Bakersfield-Fresno-Stockton-Sacramento-SF Bay Area.

In addition to more cost effective administration and operations, the CCJPA has shown that there are several other potential benefits to local authority administration of intercity passenger service including:

- Enhanced opportunity for local involvement in advocating for service improvements and expansions;
- Improved ability to respond and adapt to passenger issues;
- Increased ability to take advantage of joint marketing and partnerships with local agencies;
- More engagement by local communities to support the service.

With more efficient administration and stronger local/regional support, a regionally managed San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service will result in improved service, and increases in ridership and revenue. Increases in San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service and ridership will result in more jobs, improve air quality, and will help promote sustainable development.

Intercity passenger rail is environmentally friendly, and the state has a continuing interest in the provision of cost-effective and efficiently administered intercity

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passenger rail services. We are pleased to request that you sign AB 1779 to help move California forward.

Sincerely,



Randell H. Iwasaki
Executive Director