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**Roger Niello**

Sacramento Metro Chamber

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

**RE:** Support for AB 1779 (Galgiani) – The Intercity Passenger Rail Act of 2012 for the San Joaquin Corridor

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our support for AB 1779 (Galgiani), 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. The Sacramento Metro Chamber is the largest, oldest and most prominent voice of business in the greater Sacramento area. Representing over 2,000 member businesses and business organizations in the six-county Sacramento region, the Sacramento Metro Chamber serves as the region's leading proponent of regional cooperation and primary advocate on issues affecting business, economic development and quality of life.

Transferring administration of the intercity passenger rail service from the state to local authority allows the local governing body (JPA) to have a stronger imprint on regional issues, direct control over delivery of service and be more responsive to local needs. This leads to increased efficiencies, cost-savings, service improvements and expansions.

With more efficient administration and stronger local/regional support, a regionally managed San Joaquin intercity passenger rail service can result in improved service, and increases in ridership and revenue – like experienced by the Capitol Corridor under the regional administration of the CCJPA. 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 passenger rail services.

AB 1779 offers a transportation solution that can improve the region's connectivity and strengthen the regional transportation system throughout the Bakersfield-Fresno-Stockton-Sacramento-SF Bay Area corridor. The Metro Chamber is pleased to support AB 1779 to help move California forward.

Sincerely,



Roger Niello  
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani  
San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission  
Stan Van Vleck, Vice-Chair of Public Policy  
Cheryl Creson, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee  
Gene Endicott, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee  
Alan Glen, Co-Chair, Transportation Committee  
Dennis M. Rogers, Sr. V.P., Public Policy and Economic Development