



July 2, 2012

The Honorable Cathleen Galgiani
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5155
Sacramento CA 95814

RE: Intercity Passenger Rail Act of 2012 for San Joaquin Corridor (AB 1779) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Galgiani:

On behalf of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) Board of Directors, I am pleased to submit our conditional support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1779, which would enable the transfer of administration of the San Joaquin intercity passenger rail (IPR) service from the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to a new joint powers authority (JPA).

We appreciate that AB 1779 follows 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 the San Joaquin IPR trains and direct the improvement of its 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 52% 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 legislation and subsequent agreements and contracts relating to the transfer of the San Joaquin IPR 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 the San Joaquin IPR 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 extends its support to the concepts put forth in AB 1779 and we are available to provide insight on the development and organization of the CCJPA's administration of the Capitol Corridor IPR trains. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact David Kutrosky, CCJPA Managing Director, at DavidK@capitolcorridor.org or 510-464-6993.

Sincerely,

James P. Spering
Chair

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

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