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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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October 5, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I support the application of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments to the United States Department of Transportation's Transportation Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 2017) competitive grant program for the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities project.

The Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities 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 as 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. This corridor currently operates with LOS F congested flow conditions for two to four hours daily and congestion is estimated to increase over ten hours per day by 2040. 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. The significant increase in traffic delays causes Santa Barbara traffic to flow onto the busy surface streets.

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.

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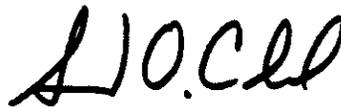
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The Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities Project will protect the economic viability of the region, help California meet state GHG reduction goals, improve interregional goods movement and travel, and create over 6,000 jobs during construction phases. This project is the highest priority for the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, Santa Barbara County, and the incorporated cities within.

As the U.S. representative of the 24th Congressional District of California which encompasses all of Santa Barbara County and having lived in Santa Barbara for many years, I know firsthand how important the Santa Barbara U.S. 101 Corridor: Access to Opportunities project is for our Central Coast. I urge you to give full and fair consideration of TIGER IX funding for this critical project, consistent with applicable policies and regulations that apply.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal

Member of Congress