



Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Freddie N. Simpson
President

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April 7, 2022

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Lena A. Gonzalez
1021 O Street, Suite 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate Budget Committee 5
Legislative Office Building, Rm. 502
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: California High Speed Rail Project

Dear Chairwoman Durazo, Chairwoman Gonzalez, and Members of the Senate Budget Committee 5:

Greetings, we are Jesse Franco and Narciso Acosta, and we are proud members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (BMWED). The BMWED represents the maintenance of way railroad workers responsible for inspecting, installing, constructing, repairing, and maintaining railroad tracks, bridges, and operating railroad drawbridges on all Class I railroads and several Class II, Class III, and commuter railroads in the country. In addition to working on the railroad, we also serve the BMWED as their Legislative Director and Assistant Legislative Director for our home State of California.

As you already know, California is leading the fight against climate change in the United States, primarily due to having effective and solid government leaders who see the advantages of investing in clean energy. In our role as BMWED members and legislative directors, we have a vital interest in railroad safety, the safety of all rail workers, and the public at large. Therefore, we write to you concerning the California High-Speed Rail Project Authority's 2022 Business Plan the Senate Budget Committee is scheduled to review soon.

Studies have shown that having a high-speed rail system would create good jobs while reducing carbon emissions, high congestion, and our dependence on foreign oil. Our citizens would have more choices when traveling. Many countries worldwide acknowledge that having a

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high-speed rail system is effective and an excellent alternative to deal with climate control in the future. Many of these countries are already benefitting and advancing economically and seeing gains in their environments.

California's state legislature acknowledged the need to reduce pollutants and the necessity for positive results to combat these impurities from its environment. By creating and completing this project, California can continue leading the country and setting the standard for having an eco-friendly environment.

We kindly ask that the Senate Budget Committee and the entire state legislature support Governor Newsom's request for a \$4.2 billion appropriation of the voter-approved funding for the California High-Speed Rail Project.

With kind regards,



Jesse Franco

California State Legislative Director



Narciso Acosta

California Assistant State Legislative Director