



SAN
FRANCISCO
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

January 4, 2017

The Honorable Willie Adams
President, San Francisco Port Commission
Pier 1 The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94111

RE: Lease Extension for San Francisco Bay Railroad

Dear President Adams:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,500 local businesses, is writing to urge the Port Commission to extend its rail operating agreement with San Francisco Bay Railroad.

We want to add our support to that of the Maritime Commerce Advisory Committee, whose letter of November 29, 2016, sets forth in detail the need for continued freight rail access to the City and the Port. As that letter points out, any challenge to the Port's access to rail is a direct challenge to the Port's maritime future and in my opinion, violates the Bay Area maritime plan. And, while the Chamber is a strong supporter of CalTrain electrification and an early supporter of the High-Speed Rail, we have always believed that those projects can be built to be compatible with the freight access needs of the San Francisco Peninsula.

The Chamber has been a member of the Peninsula Freight Rail Users Group and has lobbied long for the expansion of rail access, including reconstruction of tunnels and bridges that limit modern rail access throughout much of the Peninsula. Freight and passenger rail have co-existed for over 125 years on the Peninsula and that joint-use must be factored into the Bay Area's rail plans and improvements.

The Chamber urges the Commission to extend the Port's operating agreement with San Francisco Bay Railroad and to continue to take steps to support enhanced freight rail service on the Peninsula.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc: Members, Port Commission
Elaine Forbes, Port Director
Peter Dailey, Deputy Director, Maritime