



February 10, 2017

*Sent separately to:*

Congressman John Garamendi (D), California, District 3    Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (D), California, District 11  
Congressman Jared Huffman (D), California, District 2    Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D), California, District 26  
Congressman Duncan Hunter (R), California, District 50    Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D), California, District 32  
Congressman Jeff Denham (R), California, District 10    Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D), California, District 47  
Congressman Doug LaMalfa (R), California, District 1

Dear Representatives,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce represents over 2,500 of the most successful and committed businesses and organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. At the Chamber we are focused on three pillars of prosperity: advocacy; business development; and economic development.

With programs focused on bilateral trade with China, the rest of Asia, and Latin America, we are working to grow our local economy from across the globe. A dependable freight rail network is essential for many businesses in the region to compete and succeed.

The affordable, efficient, and reliable movement of goods is important for our local economy. Freight rail provides a link for thousands of jobs in the region by connecting farmers, technology companies, and manufacturers to markets across the country and around the world. Freight rail also provides a foundation for commuter and passenger rail, lessening deterioration of our public infrastructure.

The Bay Area's economy depends on railroads not only for the money it saves and the jobs it supports, but also because it fuels our region's economy and sustains our way of life. Railroads provide a vital connection to our ports transporting everything from food, to lumber, to motor vehicles. According to a recent study by the Towson University in Maryland investments of major U.S. railroads created more than \$274 billion in economic activity in 2014, while supporting approximately 1.5 million jobs and \$88 billion in total wages across the country.

Infrastructure in America is lagging far behind. The need to rebuild our bridges, roads and tunnels is a bipartisan issue. When it comes to infrastructure, we can't afford to wait decades. An estimated \$22 billion will be spent this year alone to maintain and upgrade the nation's private rail network, but more needs to be done. We support a robust public-private partnership to upgrade our rail network.

As major investments are made to maintain and expand a healthy freight rail network, please continue supporting policies that allow railroads to connect our great city to markets across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Lazarus', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Lazarus  
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc:     United States Senator Dianne Feinstein  
       United States Senator Kamala Harris