



SAN
FRANCISCO
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

February 16, 2017

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

RE: Support Federal Funding of the California High-Speed Rail Program

Dear Secretary Chao:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce representing over 2,500 local businesses with over 200,000 employees in San Francisco and across the Bay Area, urges your support of California's High-Speed Rail Program. High-Speed Rail will transform California by delivering an integrated statewide rail system and associated investments in other local rail systems. It will significantly improve mobility throughout the state, connecting California's major population centers while enhancing our competitiveness in the global marketplace.

In the last ten years the California High-Speed Rail Program has invested over \$2.3 billion in planning and construction. There are now over 119 miles of construction-related activities underway in the Central Valley with visible work on over a dozen sites. This investment has generated \$4 billion in economic activity with over 630 private sector firms contracted to work on the program.

As an early and long-time supporter of High-Speed Rail, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce urges you to continue federal investment in this vital program that is already generating significant economic growth and creating new jobs throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein; Senator Kamala Harris; House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi