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"Diversity and Unity"

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Kings County Association of Governments  
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Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
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Merced County Association of Governments  
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Western Riverside Council of Governments

## CONSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities

September 7, 2007

Susan Binder  
National Transportation Financing Commission  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Federal authorization for States and their political subdivisions to establish user based financing for transportation capacity expansion particularly for freight movement.

Dear Ms. Binder,

California's metropolitan planning organizations appreciate the attention that the Commission is bringing to our significantly underfinanced transportation system. We especially want to focus additional attention on the growth in volume of vehicle trips for both the movement of people and freight which has greatly exceeded the capacity of the current transportation system. Moreover, current financing tools are inadequate to both manage the maintenance operations and rehabilitation needs of the current system and also accommodate increased demand.

The transportation agencies in California urge the Commission to include in its recommendations the establishment of broad federal enabling authority for states and their political subdivisions to be able to expand their transportation system through user based financing including but not limited to:

- New toll roads, bridges, and lanes on the Interstate System
- Imposition of broadly based container or other port fees

We also urge inclusion of broad authority for public private partnerships whereby revenue from these new fees together with fare box revenue from transit projects may be utilized to attract private investment to be combined with federal state and local public funds to finance new projects.

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This authority is especially warranted and needed in states like California where state fuel taxes have been supplemented with local voter approved sales taxes.

We hope the Commission will include these proposals in its recommendations.

Sincerely,



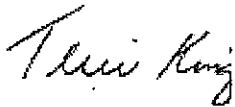
Rusty Selix, Executive Director  
California Association of Council of Governments



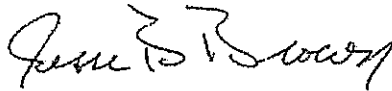
Jon Clark, Executive Director  
Butte County Association of Governments



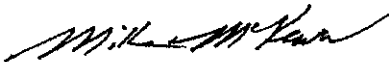
Barbara Goodwin, Executive Director  
Council of Fresno County Governments



Terri King, Executive Director  
Kings County Association of Governments



Jesse Brown, Executive Director  
Merced County Association of Governments



Mike McKeever, Executive Director  
Sacramento Area Council of Governments

*Gary L. Gallegos*

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Gary Gallegos, Executive Director  
San Diego Association of Governments

*Andrew T. Chesley*

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Andrew Chesley, Executive Director  
San Joaquin Council of Governments

*Ronald A. DeCarli*

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Ron De Carli, Executive Director  
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments

*Jim Kemp*

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Jim Kemp, Executive Director  
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

*Dan Little*

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Dan Little, Executive Director  
Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency

*Mark Pisano*

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Mark Pisano, Executive Director  
Southern California Association of Governments

*Vincent Harris*

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Vince Harris, Executive Director  
Stanislaus Council of Governments

CC: Jack Wells, Chief Economist  
U.S. Department of Transportation