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Partners: Amtrak, Caltrans Division of Rail, BNSF Railway Company, Union Pacific Railroad

REPRESENTING COUNTIES ALONG THE SAN JOAQUIN RAIL CORRIDOR

April 12, 2019

Senator Allen
State Capitol, 10th & L Streets, Room 4076
Sacramento CA 95814
Attention: Zak Castillo-Krings

RE: Intercity Passenger Rail Services: Motor Coach Transportation of Passengers – Letter of Support

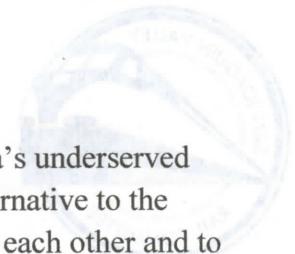
Dear Senator Allen,

The San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee is pleased to provide this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 742, which would amend California Government Code Section 14035.55 to enable the three California passenger rail Joint Power Authorities (San Joaquin, Capitol Corridor, and LOSSAN) to pick up and drop off passengers on their Amtrak intercity thruway bus routes without requiring them to have a train ticket as part of their trip.

SB 742 would:

- Increase revenues for the state at virtually no additional cost
- Provide improved access to priority and underserved communities
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and air pollution emissions by diverting trips that would have previously been taken by an automobile
- Provide better utilization of current infrastructure and reduce congestion on some of the state's most congested freeways

California's Amtrak Thruway Bus Network is one of the largest intercity bus networks in the United States connecting over 250 communities throughout California and major cities in Nevada. This network is underutilized because of the Section 14035.55 restriction limiting who can use this network to only those who ride a train on a segment of their travel. By eliminating this restriction, the State could provide transportation services to more people while reducing energy consumption and emissions.



Amending Section 14035.55 will also have a very positive effect on California's underserved priority and rural communities by providing a convenient and inexpensive alternative to the rising costs of automobile and airline travel. Connecting these communities to each other and to California's large economic centers would increase safe and affordable transportation options between these communities.

Intercity passenger rail and its associated Thruway bus network is environmentally friendly, and the state has a continuing interest in the provision of cost-effective and efficiently administered intercity passenger rail/Thruway bus services.

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for SB 742 to help move California forward.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohn, Chair
San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee

The San Joaquin Valley Rail Committee is pleased to provide this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 742, which would amend California Government Code Section 14035.55 to enable the three California passenger rail Joint Power Authorities (San Joaquin, Central, and Lodi) to pick up and drop off passengers on their Amtrak intercity thruway bus routes without requiring them to have a train ticket as part of their trip.

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