



December 15, 2005

Assemblyman Mike Villines
P.O. Box 4153
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

Re: Goods Movement Action Plan

Dear Assemblyman Villines:

The Madera County Economic Development Commission would like to go on record at the December 16, 2005 Goods Movement Action Plan Hearing. We feel that once again the Central San Joaquin Valley is being overlooked when it comes to critical funding of transportation projects.

It is a well-known fact that the Central San Joaquin Valley is one of the most economically challenged regions not only in the State of California but also in the entire nation. A recent congressional study indicates we are indeed the Appalachia of the west coast. In light of that, the State of California in its recent Goods Movement Action Plan recommends sending \$12.8 billion of a \$14.4 billion plan to Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, once again ignoring the San Joaquin Valley.

Highway 99 is the transportation backbone of the San Joaquin Valley and is in dire need of improvements. However, as we work with potential economic projects in our area we are continually faced with problems concerning Highway 99. When addressing these issues with CalTrans, we are told the project and/or local government must cover the cost of the required improvements.

The State of California cannot continually overlook the transportation issues of the San Joaquin Valley and naively think we, as local governments, can solve the poor economic development issues we constantly face. The Transportation Work Group of the Governor's Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley has recommended the commitment of \$6 billion over the next ten years for improvements to accelerate the improvement and expansion of Highway 99. We need to start making this commitment **TODAY!**

Please make it clear that we expect more than promises as we watch transportation funding in our state continue to flow to the greater Los Angeles and Bay areas. I thank you for your time and appreciate you reading this letter and our concerns into the record at the December 16, 2005 hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bobby Kahn', is written over a horizontal line.

Bobby Kahn
Executive Director

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