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December 15, 2005

The Honorable Dave Cogdill  
California Assembly  
1912 Standiford Avenue, Suite 4  
Modesto CA 95360

Dear Assemblyman Cogdill:

On behalf of the 1,700 members of the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, we strongly support improved transportation. However, the Central Valley must not be left out of the plan.

It is essential that Highway 99, the backbone of the Central Valley, receive a fair and equitable share of the funds earmarked to improve our roads. The Goods Movement Action Plan concentrates almost all of its requested funding in a small area that virtually ignores the north/south corridor that is necessary to move the abundant foods and manufactured items from the San Joaquin Valley.

The Goods Movement Plan submitted to Governor Schwarzenegger identifies \$14.4 billion for key projects. Yet the San Joaquin Valley is barely a fraction of those projects and would receive a miniscule amount of dollars for minor projects.

Yet, the Central Valley faces major transportation needs. While the Central Valley is expected to feed the world, it is denied access to the marketplace in the current Goods Movement Plan.

Please reconsider a \$6 billion investment for roads in the Central Valley region. It is an investment that is worthy, necessary and should be seriously considered. To deny the Central Valley projects are to cripple the lifeline to the people we feed. The political reality is that milk products, fruits, vegetables and nuts don't vote, the people who need them who live outside the valley do. However, please ensure the nutrient pipeline from the valley is not ignored.

Sincerely,

Joy P. Madison, President and CEO