

WESTAR TRANSPORT

A TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION

9220 E. South Avenue • Selma, California 93662

Honorable Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak
Business Transportation and Housing Agency
980 9th St. Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Transportation Infrastructure Investments and Improvements.

Dear Honorable Secretary McPeak,

I write to you today to ask you to update the definitions of Short Sea Shipping as currently listed in the Freight Goods Movement Plan. The current definitions do not express the social benefits (especially to the San Joaquin Valley) and the Freight Goods Movement improvements.

My complete proposed Short Sea Shipping System for California and the West Coast it's White Paper and presentation can be found on my web site at www.WestarTransport.com under the short Sea Shipping button.

I cannot stress enough the importance of building a Short Sea System. Together my proposed operation will improve congestion pollution and highway safety while saving billions in future road construction and maintenance costs. By removing thousands of trucks daily from highway 99 & I-5 running through the Greater San Joaquin Valley thousands of tons of emissions can be diverted out the valley each year. The system will also remove the trucks and clean the air in Northern and Southern California.

I speak of a system because without the municipal ports cooperation the barge feeder operation laid out in my plan cannot happen. I speak of a system because without it built complete, parts of California will miss out. Without the complete systems being built, efficiencies will be lost and costs may be too high for implementation and market competition.

Short Sea Shipping is the only system that will remove trucks for long stretches of California highways. It is the only system that will expand easily to meet future demands. It is the only system that will turn long haul truck drivers into short haul (local) drivers and require far less of them. This will put truck drivers back into the industry that currently stands at 20,000 drivers short today and will be 110,000 short in 10 years. (Based on a study of ATA (American Trucking Association). Of all the things we can do to improve infrastructure for Freight Goods Movement. None of it will work if we don't have drivers to drive the trucks.

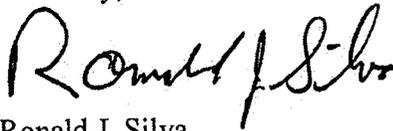
These proposed barge feeder operations will remove thousands of containers daily from the highways between the mega ports of LA, Long Beach, and Oakland to the smaller inland ports of Stockton, Sacramento, San Diego, and Port Hueneme. By the mega ports providing a roll-on roll-off terminal for the barges and ships to work out of it will allow for the complete system to work properly and efficiently.

I stress again the importance of the state to be involved as Short Sea Shipping is built. Cal-Trans and the Air Districts need to be involved in the planning process so we can build the missing link to the supply chain right the first time.

Short Sea shipping is the only system that can be built in 5 years without disrupting current systems and at a cost far below road construction costs. Before we spend billions to build roads to hold all the trucks we need to build Short Sea Shipping and get the trucks off the road. Then evaluate our highway needs and where or future infrastructure dollars should be spent.

I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience if you would like to speak with me personally about my proposed system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald J. Silva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Ronald J. Silva
Westar Transport