

**CAPITOL OFFICE**  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
(916) 319-2026  
FAX (916) 319-2126

Assembly California Legislature

**CONNIE CONWAY**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 26<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

**ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN  
LEADER**

**Member, Select Committee on  
Agriculture and the  
Environment**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
133 N. Church St., Suite #  
505  
Visalia, CA 93291  
(559) 636-3440  
FAX (559) 636-4484



April 22, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The rural transportation route of the San Joaquin Valley Shortline Railroad (SJVR) provides the only dual Class 1 connectivity between the national freight rail network interchange in Fresno, CA and our valuable customers throughout the proud 26<sup>th</sup> Assembly District connecting Fresno, Tulare and Kings Counties, California. The Fresno to Goshen Corridor is one of the areas of anticipated growth as outlined in the San Joaquin Valley's Blueprint Roadmap. SJVR in partnership with Local, County and State Governments provides the safe and efficient movement of goods, supporting rail corridor improvements enriches the air quality, achieving livable quality of life values outlined in the Valley's 2050 Growth Scenario. Moving forward to support that expansion, while protecting the environment, is to expand the capacity of the SJVR short line railroad on the Exeter Subdivision running from Fresno to Exeter.

The project funding will strengthen and preserve the strategic corridor by replacing aging track infrastructure providing safer and more efficient operation to boost the economic liveliness of the region. The plan will also safely expedite the interchanging of rail traffic along an entire modern 286,000 lb. rural freight route, and return the track to a state of good repair for sustained customer dual Cass 1 access with agriculture, manufacturing, processing and other important freight shipments.

Improving the quality of life throughout our vast rural district is imperative for citizens of this area and by improving the rail corridor not only increases safety but also will accelerate the movement of trains through the corridor, limiting delays to motorist at crossings, reducing emissions. The Fresno-Goshen corridor follows Highway 99, the backbone of the San Joaquin Valley roadway network, and by supporting the San Joaquin Valley Railroad Improvement Project, together we will ensure opportunities for livable quality of life while reducing truck traffic on the already over congested highways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Conway".

Connie Conway  
Assembly Republican Leader, 26<sup>th</sup> District