

United States Senate

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July 24, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to express my support for the grant application submitted by the County of Tulare to the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program.

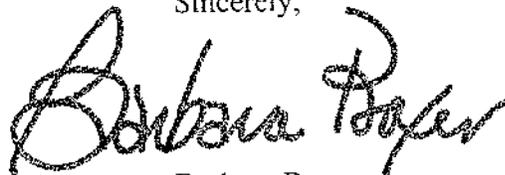
The rural San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVR) route connects to two Class 1 railroads between the national freight rail network interchange in Fresno and businesses in Fresno, Tulare, and Kings Counties.

The 17-mile stretch of the SJVR between Exeter and Fresno consists of light-weight rail that is more than 100 years old. The obsolete, deteriorating rail poses derailment risks and does not meet current railcar weight standards, significantly limiting the speed at which trains can move through the area.

If awarded this funding in the amount of \$14 million, the County of Tulare will replace the aging rail and track structure on the Exeter Subdivision Route with 115 pound continuous welded rail and new ties, and a number of crossings and bridges along the route will also be repaired. These upgrades will facilitate safer, more efficient goods movement through the region.

In advance, I thank you for your consideration of this application. Should your staff have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ameen Khan in my Fresno office at (559) 497-5109.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

BB: ak

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