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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**TOM BERRYHILL**  
FOURTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

April 16, 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:

I am writing to offer my strong support of the rural San Joaquin Valley Shortline Railroad (SJVR) TIGER grant application that will bring much needed funds to the only dual Class 1 connectivity between the national freight rail network interchange in Fresno, CA and our valuable customers in parts of Senate District 14, connecting Fresno and Kings Counties through the Tulare County Exeter subdivision rail line.

This project will improve the quality of life throughout the Central Valley of California, while enhancing access to living wage jobs and improving the safety and movement of trains through the rail corridor. The SJVR, in partnership with Local, County and State Governments, provides the safe and efficient movement of goods and the supporting rail corridor improvements that enrich the air and livable quality of life values outlined in the Valley's 2050 Growth Scenario.

The rural TIGER project funding will strengthen and preserve the strategic corridor by replacing aging track infrastructure providing safer and more efficient operation to advance the economic liveliness to one of the nation's hardest economically distressed regions. 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 family wage employment providers.

Again, I fully support the San Joaquin Valley Shortline Railroad Improvement Project, which will improve the quality of life while improving the air quality and reducing the congestion on the already strained State and National Highway system. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Sacramento office regarding this vital project to the Central Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Berryhill".

Tom Berryhill  
Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District