



COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WATER, POWER AND OCEANS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

June 28, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE, 9th floor
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Chao,

This letter serves to express my support for the Madera County Transportation Commission's (MCTC) BUILD Discretionary Transportation Grant application. The proposal for the widening project of California State Route 99 through the City of Madera will expand the current 4 lanes to 6, in an effort to improve safety and movement for this vital freight corridor.

As the Representative for California's 16th Congressional District, I have long been aware of the need to expand California State Route 99. SR 99 is a vital stretch of highway in the San Joaquin Valley that helps drive the region's \$35 billion-dollar export-oriented agriculture industry. This shovel ready project is the ideal investment for the BUILD program, as the MCTC has also contributed \$2.6 million in local transportation measure funds.

Identified in the California Freight Plan, this project would strengthen a major goods movement section of SR 99 through the City of Madera and reduce the time it takes for perishable commodities to go from farm to markets throughout the United States and around the world. Renewed investment in this critical route will improve safety, reduce congestion, and better facilitate the flow of goods and services. According to data from the National Traffic and Highway Safety Administration, SR 99 is one of the most dangerous highways in the nation. Many of the traffic collisions occurred because of outdated infrastructure. Furthermore, funding this project will stimulate job creation in an area faced with consistency high unemployment rates.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the Madera County Transportation Commission's BUILD grant application. It is my hope that this application receives full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress