

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 3, 2012

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
United States Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

It has come to our attention that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has received a request to conduct a study of the California high-speed rail project. We agree that transparency and oversight of this important infrastructure project is necessary and appropriate.

It is incumbent upon GAO to utilize all of the expert information available as it examines the project. We believe a thorough review of the California high-speed rail project should include close consultation with a range of experts on critical aspects of the project. These should include, but not be limited to, the following individuals:

- Dr. Frank Koppelman, chairman of the independent Ridership Peer Review Panel, which was commissioned to review the preparation of the updated ridership and revenue forecasts included in the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) draft business plan.
- California Assemblymember Cathleen Galgiani, the author of Proposition 1A, the \$9.95 billion bond measure that California voters approved in 2008.
- U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Federal Railroad Administration Administrator Joseph C. Szabo, whose staff worked closely with the Authority in drafting the draft business plan.

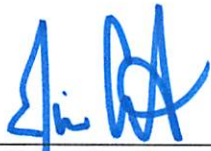
Furthermore, in order to prepare a comprehensive review of the project, we request the study include:

- The use of the federal definition of high-speed rail ("nonhighway ground transportation...which is reasonably expected to reach sustained speeds of more than 125 miles per hour" [49 USC Sec. 26105]) when comparing the California high-speed rail project costs and viability to other high speed rail projects in the United States.
- An assessment of California's ability to accommodate the expected population growth over the next 40 years on existing transportation systems.
- A comparison of the federal, state and local government subsidies required for the operation and maintenance of other modes of transportation, including by locomotive, airplane, and car, available to travelers in California.
- A review of federal, state and local government efforts to construct a true high-speed rail system in the Northeast Corridor. This review should compare total cost in year-of-

expenditure dollars, dedicated funding from states and municipalities, and expected private investment in the Northeast Corridor to those of the California high-speed rail project.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact Andy Flick with Congressman Jim Costa's office should you need further information.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jim Costa



Rep. Nick Rahall



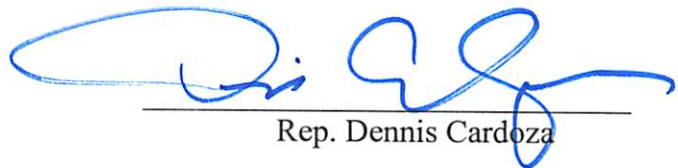
Rep. Zoe Lofgren



Rep. Corrine Brown



Rep. Laura Richardson



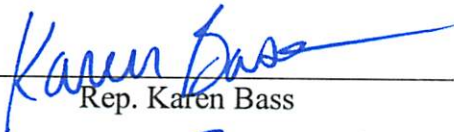
Rep. Dennis Cardoza



Rep. Barbara Lee



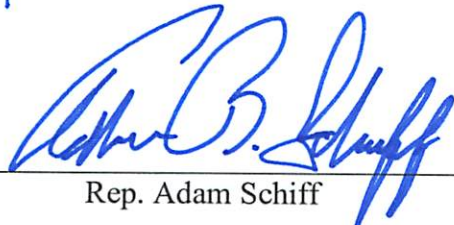
Rep. Bob Filner



Rep. Karen Bass



Rep. Mike Honda



Rep. Adam Schiff