



Aaron Read
& Associates, LLC

LEGISLATIVE AND
GOVERNMENTAL REPRESENTATION

June 11, 2014

The Honorable Bonnie Lowenthal
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 3152
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1298 (Hernandez) - OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED

Dear Assemblymember Lowenthal:

On behalf of our client, the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG), representing over 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals, I am writing to inform you of their opposition to SB 1298 (Hernandez), unless it is amended to provide a reasonable amount of HOT lane revenue to the state for maintenance and operations of the State Highway System. SB 1298 seeks to eliminate the restrictions on the number of HOT lanes that the CTC may approve and makes a variety of other changes.

The state highway system has been paid for by the state gas tax, federal gas tax, and in some regions a county sales tax. PECG does not believe it is appropriate for local transportation authorities to use 100% of the proceeds from these investments without providing a reasonable return to the tax payers that have made those investments. PECG believes that a significant portion of any future revenue from HOT lanes should be returned to the state to cover ongoing maintenance costs incurred by the State of California within the HOT lane corridor. As a result, they are opposed to the bill unless it is amended to provide reasonable funding for state highway costs.

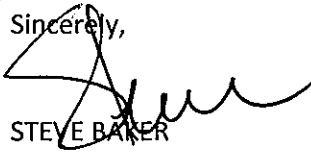
PECG would also like to note that in February 2014, the California State Transportation Agency released the "California Transportation Infrastructure Priorities" report. In that report, the agency made a variety of recommendations to support efforts to reduce congestion. This included:

"10.3 Work with the Legislature to expand the department's use of pricing and express lanes to better manage congestion and the operations of the state highway system while generating new revenues for preservation and other corridor improvements."

PECG believes this same principle should apply when locals seek to participate in obtaining additional HOT lane authorization.

PECG urges your "NO" vote on SB 1298 when it is heard in the Assembly Transportation Committee.

Sincerely,



STEVE BAKER
Legislative Advocate

cc: Janet Dawson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Transportation Committee
Lynne Andres, Consultant, Office of Senator Ed Hernandez
Members of the Assembly Transportation Committee
Ted Toppin, Professional Engineers in California Government

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