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June 25, 2008

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Senator Tom Torlakson
Member, State Senate
State Capitol Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

Gabriel Metcalf
Executive Director

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Re: AB 3034 Support

Terry Micheau
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Dear Senator Torlakson:

Jean Fraser
Secretary

Vince Hoenigman
Immediate Past Chair

On behalf of San Francisco Planning & Urban Research, San Francisco's good government and good planning thinktank, I am writing to express strong support for AB 3034, the "Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century."

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This measure updates and improves the terms of the original high-speed rail bond proposal enacted in 2002 and establishes important additional financial controls. The new controls will assure that the \$9 billion in bond proceeds from the HSR bond measure will not be earmarked for any one segment but rather used to benefit the entire system. It ensures that the \$950 million set aside for intercity, commuter and urban rail systems must be used for direct connections to the high-speed network and that they must benefit the high-speed system. It also strengthens the original bill's intent to support urban land uses and not contribute to sprawl.

The bill's updated language is critical to the success of the measure this November, and therefore to the success of the high-speed rail proposal. The statewide high speed train system is absolutely essential to our shared goal of meeting the emissions reduction requirements of AB32. It will remove nearly 70 million passenger trips from our highways every year and attract millions of airline passengers to eliminate more than 17 billion pounds of the CO2 emissions that cause global warming each year.

Please support AB 3034. Feel free to call me with any questions. I can be reached at (415) 781-8726, ext. 113.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Metcalf
Executive Director

cc: Hans Korve