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April 2, 2012

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
Senate Transportation and Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2209  
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: SB 1339 (Yee)-- Support**

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

The San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) supports Senate Bill 1339 (Yee) San Francisco Bay Area Regional Commute Benefit Policy. This bill is scheduled to be heard in your committee on April 10.

SPUR is a broad-based public policy organization that works to support good planning and good government. SPUR promotes thoughtful ways to encourage the use of transit and considers the commuter benefit ordinance sound policy with numerous economic and environmental benefits. San Francisco has had a version of this ordinance in place for several years during which we've witnessed strong job growth and great increases in transit ridership.

SB 1339 would permit the Bay Area Air District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to build on the success of local commute benefit ordinances in place in the San Francisco Bay Area and replicate the benefits of those ordinances across the region. It would allow local employers of fifty or more to choose from a range of commute benefits—including public transit, vanpooling, bicycling or employer-provided shuttles—to offer their workers, payable with pre-tax dollars. This would reduce employers' federal tax burden, while simultaneously cutting commute costs and expanding transit options for their employees.

In addition to the financial benefits provided to businesses, SB 1339 is a cost-effective tool for the region to meet environmental and economic objectives including cutting household transportation costs, alleviating traffic congestion, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. This is truly a win-win approach to meeting California's climate goals laid out in AB 32 and SB 375.

I urge you to vote in support of SB1339.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Metcalf  
Executive Director, SPUR

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