

United States Senate

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in strong support of Brightline West's proposed high-speed rail project, which will connect Las Vegas and Southern California. The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (P.L. 117-58), which I was proud to help write and pass, authorized the Federal Railroad Administration to make billions of dollars in investments in critical rail projects through the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program. I urge the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to stand ready to receive Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT) application for this program to construct a high-speed rail system with Brightline West, and to give the application full and fair consideration.

Brightline West plans to construct a 218-mile high-speed rail system connecting Las Vegas and Southern California. Plans call for rail stations in Las Vegas, Nevada and in Rancho Cucamonga, Hesperia, and Apple Valley in California. The new rail system would largely track Interstate-15, which is a critical highway connecting the economic and tourism hubs of Southern California and Las Vegas. I-15 has major congestion issues, with average travel times on the five mile stretch of highway between the Nevada border and the California Department of Food and Agriculture Station ranging from three to five hours in the southbound direction on Sundays and Mondays. Brightline estimates that the completed rail system will remove 3 million cars from I-15 annually, reduce more than 400,000 tons of carbon emissions each year, and create 35,000 good-paying jobs.

Additionally, Brightline West recently announced an agreement establishing a commitment with several craft rail unions for the use of highly skilled union labor in critical jobs required to operate and maintain the project. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the High-Speed Rail Labor Coalition is comprised of 13 rail unions representing more than 160,000 freight, regional, commuter, and passenger railroad workers in the United States. The MOU demonstrates the support of union labor in the development of the Brightline West system, and Brightline West's commitment to providing the safest possible rail operations and high-quality working conditions for its employees.

With this in mind, I urge USDOT to stand ready to receive NDOT's application for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program to construct this critical high-speed rail project. Thank you in advance for providing full and fair consideration to the forthcoming proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jacky Rosen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Senator Jacky Rosen

cc: The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation