

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 24, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to express our strong support of the Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant. This application requests funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Brightline West high-speed rail system along the congested Interstate 15 corridor, connecting Southern California to Nevada.

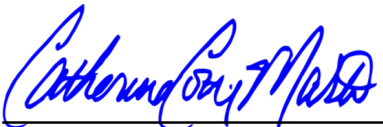
This unprecedented funding opportunity for intercity high-speed rail will unleash private investment at a critical moment for our nation, demonstrating the potential for public-private partnerships and planting a flag for American high-speed rail. Brightline West will serve as a powerful example of the possibilities of high-speed rail for other cities and regions and is well-positioned to advance the U.S. Department of Transportation's priorities related to multi-generational infrastructure investments, job creation, equity, and climate change resiliency and sustainability.

Brightline West will connect Nevada and Southern California through planned stations in Las Vegas and San Bernardino County, with connectivity into Los Angeles County through Metrolink. The project will bolster additional economic activity for both states, with an estimated \$10 billion in economic impact and \$1 billion in tax revenue. According to Brightline West's current plan, the project is expected to create over 35,000 construction jobs and approximately 1,000 permanent jobs, creating pathways for workforce development, training, and access to quality jobs. This includes a commitment through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure the creation of good-paying union jobs. As seen through other transit areas, the development of a new transit system will provide opportunities for ancillary development around station areas, spurring additional economic activity for communities along the corridor. High-speed rail connecting Nevada and California also has the potential to significantly increase visitors to both states, boosting travel and tourism across the region.

The system will also align with the Administration's climate goals by diverting millions of automobile users from I-15 onto a faster, more efficient, zero-emission transportation option. Each year, Brightline West operations will remove an estimated 3 million vehicles and over 700 million vehicle miles traveled from the highway, as well as 400,000 tons of CO2 emissions from the atmosphere, supporting California's and Nevada's respective greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and leading the way for cleaner travel options for Americans. Moreover, the project will reduce congestion on I-15, leading to a faster and more enjoyable travel experience for both drivers and riders alike.

For the above reasons, this bipartisan delegation from Nevada and California are pleased to support the federal resources necessary to develop essential transportation access between this highly trafficked corridor between our two states. We are excited about the mobility and economic benefits the project will bring, from job creation to reduced congestion to the potential for increased tourism and economy activity. For these reasons, we ask you to give your full and fair consideration to the grant application and provide critical funding to enable this transformational project to move forward as expeditiously as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out to us or our staff.

Sincerely,



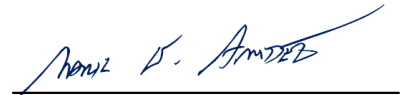
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



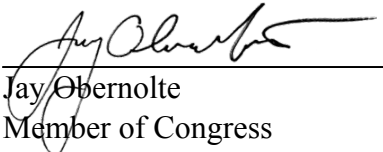
Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

Susie Lee

Susie Lee
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez

Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress

Steven Horsford

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress