

United States Senate

August 17, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

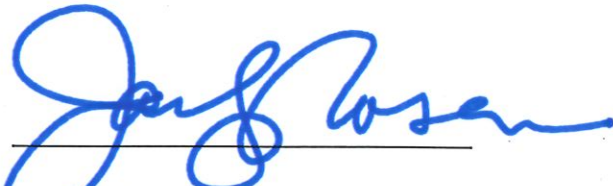
I write to reiterate my strong support for Brightline West's proposed high-speed rail project, which will connect Las Vegas and Southern California, and to update the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) on important project developments. The *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (P.L. 117-58), which I was proud to help write and pass, authorized the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) 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 fully support the Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT) application for this program to construct a high-speed rail system with Brightline West, and ensure strong union labor protections for this transformational project.

On April 24, 2023, a bipartisan delegation from Nevada and California wrote to you in support of NDOT's application for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program to construct Brightline West's 218-mile high-speed rail system. This project is estimated to remove 3 million cars from Interstate-15 annually, reduce more than 400,000 tons of carbon emissions each year, and create 35,000 good-paying jobs. It will also help enhance tourism to both states, decrease congregation and travel times, and grow the regional economy. Since April, significant project developments have occurred, including:

- In June, USDOT awarded the project a \$25 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to fund the final design and construction of two Brightline West passenger rail stations in Hesperia and Apple Valley, California;
- In July, the FRA determined that the Brightline West project between Apple Valley and Rancho Cucamonga would cause no significant environmental impacts, completing the environmental review process; and
- In August, the Clark County Commission unanimously approved a resolution supporting Brightline West and NDOT's application for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program, demonstrating local community support for the project.

With these key developments in mind, I urge USDOT to support and fully fund NDOT's application for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program to ensure timely construction of the high-speed rail system and labor protections at the highest level available for the project. Thank you in advance for providing full and fair consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,



Senator Jacky Rosen

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