

California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 5100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4022
FAX (916) 327-8817

DISTRICT OFFICE
617 S. OLIVE ST., SUITE 710
LOS ANGELES, CA 90014
TEL (213) 612-9566
FAX (213) 612-9591

SENATOR
GILBERT CEDILLO
TWENTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



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June 6, 2007

Mr. James C. Ghielmetti
Chair, California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2221
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chairman Ghielmetti:

It is our pleasure to write to you to support the adoption of the *2006 STIP Augmentation Staff Recommendation* on June 7, 2007. The commitment from the California Transportation Commission, coupled with the funding approved by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) earlier this year, allows the Department of Transportation to conduct studies to determine the technical feasibility of building a tunnel that will extend the 710 Freeway to the 210 Freeway.

The Southern California Association of Governments lists the completion of the 710 Freeway Gap Closure as the single most important environmental enhancement project for the Los Angeles region. For too long, the cities we represent have been inundated with traffic that should be on freeways. This congestion in residential surface streets creates a longer workday for many, while reducing time spent with families.

We want to specifically acknowledge the efforts of Will Kempton who, along with the MTA Executive Director Roger Snoble, collaboratively identified a funding source to begin the preliminary environmental studies. Finally, District 7's Doug Failing has brought the necessary energy and expertise to oversee the work now being done by Caltrans. This is truly a team effort.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Gilbert Cedillo in black ink.

Gilbert Cedillo
State Senator, 22nd District

Handwritten signature of Mike Eng in black ink.

Mike Eng
State Assemblyman, 49th District

cc: Mr. John Chalker, Vice Chair
California Transportation Commission
Commission Members
Mr. John Barna, Executive Director
California Transportation Commission