

The Honorable John Perez
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94849
Sacramento, California 94249-0046

The Honorable Darrell Steinberg
Senate President Pro Tem
State Capitol Building
Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Speaker Perez and Senate Pro Temp Steinberg:

Please find attached the California High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group's (Group) summary comments on the California High-Speed Rail Authority's (Authority) 2009 Report to the Legislature (Attachment A). Also please find the Group's full comments (Attachment B) in which all members concur.

The Group appreciates the challenge the State faces in planning and managing a project of such immense complexity and long time horizon. This is especially true in the current policy climate of budget shortfalls, limitations on spending and uncertainty as to future Federal and State policies and capabilities. It would be a daunting task under the best of circumstances. Meeting the challenge will require a thorough re-assessment of a number of critical engineering, financial, economic and managerial issues, and will require agreement among the Legislature, the Governor and the Authority on what the resolution of those issues should be.

If you should have questions regarding the group's comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Will Kempton
Chairman
California High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group

WK:be

c: Hon. Bob Dutton, Senate Republican Leader
Hon. Connie Conway, Assembly Republican Leader
Hon. Alan Lowenthal, Chair, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Hon. Bob Huff, Vice Chair, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee
Hon. Bonnie Lowenthal, Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
Hon. Kevin Jefferies, Vice Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
Hon. Curt Pringle, Chair, California High-Speed Rail Authority
Roelef van Ark, Chief Executive Officer, California High-Speed Rail Authority
Members, California High-Speed Rail Authority Peer Review Group