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December 21, 2021

Amitabha Bose, Deputy Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Re: California High-Speed Rail Project

Dear Deputy Director Bose:

Congratulations on your recent FRA post confirmation.

We write today on behalf of “Save Angeles Forest for Everyone” (“S.A.F.E.”), a grass-roots, non-partisan group of community volunteers organized in Fall 2014 to stop the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) from building train routes that cause irreparable environmental damage to the Angeles National Forest, the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and our local communities of Kagel Canyon, Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills, Lakeview Terrace, La Tuna Canyon, and Sun Valley. The majority of our coalition is comprised of Democrats.

We learned that the CHSRA recently gave you a tour of construction sites central California. We are confident that the CHSRA provided you with their version of how this project is an economic bonanza to the State, how it’s a “clean project,” and how it will transform California into a leader of high-speed rail technology.

As a counterpoint to what CHSRA presented to you, we urge you to read the enclosed letter (without attachments) dated March 10, 2021 to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg regarding the high-speed rail project. Copies were also mailed to various federal, state, and local elected representatives. We feel it is imperative for all officials who may be contemplating providing additional funding to the CHSRA, including considering their application for grant funding, to recognize that the project is irrefutably fraught with major and often unfixable problems: fiscal, geotechnical, and geographical.

The California high-speed rail project is a poor candidate for further investment, as:

1. Climate change needs to be addressed NOW and California’s high-speed rail is NOT the answer, as any net positive effects will not be realized until at least 2060, if ever;
2. Construction and operation have already had and will continue to have negative, unmitigable impacts on the environment and local communities; and

3. The project has suffered from continued mismanagement, as confirmed by the California State Auditor, who entitled her audit report: "*California High-Speed Rail Authority: Its Flawed Decision Making and Poor Contract Management Have Contributed to Billions in Cost Overruns and Delays in the System's Construction.*" The project budget has already skyrocketed from \$16 billion to \$99.9 billion, with no end in sight.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
On Behalf of the S.A.F.E. Coalition,



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Enclosure: Letter from SAFE Coalition to Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg dated March 10, 2021 w/o attachments