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CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN  
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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April 21, 2010

Ara Najarian, Chairman  
Board of Directors  
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The economic and employment challenges facing our region are daunting; in my view, the best remedies will be found by all levels of government working together. To that end, I write to tell you of my strong support for Mayor Villaraigosa's Measure R 30/10 plan and urge MTA's Board to support it at tomorrow's meeting.

As the most congested region in the nation, an accelerated build-out of essential Los Angeles area transit projects as envisioned in the 30/10 plan addresses the twin issues of congestion and long commute times while creating as many as 500,000 new jobs.

Yes, there are signs the economy is improving, but unemployment remains unacceptably high. The President's stimulus package, which I supported, has saved and created jobs – but more action is needed. Though my congressional district has retained a strong aerospace base, I am working with a Jobs Task Force to identify employment in other areas – and the many transportation-related jobs created by the 30/10 plan would, I believe, make a real dent in our County's unemployment rate. 30/10 projects, like extending the Green Line to LAX, will also relieve traffic and improve air quality.

In February, House Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman Peter DeFazio visited Los Angeles at my invitation to see first-hand the kinds of transportation projects identified in the Mayor's plan. He called it "visionary" and said "these sorts of things are what we really need to do."

I stand ready to work with you at the federal level as we pursue every means to put the people of Los Angeles County back to work and urge the Board's support of this innovative proposal.

Regards,

JANE HARMAN

Cc: Board of Directors, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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