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Congress of the United States  
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August 1, 2016

Board President London Breed and  
Members of the Board of Supervisors  
City Hall, Room 244  
1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Board President Breed and Members:

I respectfully request your support for the MOU before you today regarding Caltrain electrification. The project involves over \$1 billion of federal funding. If the MOU is not approved today, and based upon the board's calendar, federal funding is at risk. San Francisco could lose the benefits of the historic investment in the city's future development, including making the Transbay Terminal a world-class destination for the blended system of Caltrain and high speed rail.

The 2008 estimate for electrification has been further developed and the costs of the project have changed. Under President Obama's leadership, and in great measure due to then-Speaker Pelosi's advocacy for stimulus funding, our economy recovered. However, construction costs have increased now that the economy is back to full employment. This demonstrates why delays in public works projects are costly. Second, the original estimate has been expanded upon to include additional engineering work, including a better understanding of the costs of running the railroad and doing construction at the same time. To ensure that the project is well managed, there is an oversight protocol that the funding partners have agreed to and there is a federal analogue once the project qualifies for additional federal funding.

Electrification is essential to getting the blended system to the Transbay Terminal. President Obama is fully dedicated to the project and his dedication is manifested in this funding. If he leaves office, it is unknown what commitment a new administration may have. It is important to note that of the increased costs since 2008, it is my understanding that San Francisco is being asked to assume \$20 million (3%) while the federal government is expected to cover an additional \$522 million or 69%. Combined, the multiple federal and state programs represent a commitment to San Francisco that is transformative in its implications and available at this moment in our nation's history. Waiting would be highly problematic.

I urge the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to join the President, Congress, California's voters, and the other parties to this agreement to ratify the MOU needed to create this historic project. San Francisco, a city that I proudly represent along with Leader Pelosi, will be the beneficiary of our collective leadership for decades to come.

All the best,

Jackie Speier

KJS/bp