



Nevada Legislature

77th Session

March 19, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Today, the leadership of the Nevada Legislature joins in its support of the XpressWest High-Speed Passenger Rail Project. XpressWest is vital to the economic and transportation future of Nevada, and we urge the Federal Railroad Administration ("FRA") to approve XpressWest's Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing ("RRIF") program loan. If the loan is approved by the FRA, XpressWest is ready to build and will immediately create much needed well-paying construction jobs for our citizens. At a time when Nevada's economy is still recovering, XpressWest offers an economic boost to the region while allowing faster and more reliable transportation linking Southern Nevada and Southern California. As Nevada continues to rely on tourism from Southern California, this project is critical to the future of our economy.

XpressWest will create more than 80,000 direct and indirect construction related jobs and approximately 2,100 long term jobs. The project will generate significant taxable revenue from operations and construction. Additionally, XpressWest will provide much needed relief to the over-crowded 1-15 freeway corridor, decreasing traffic congestion by 25%, cutting pollutant emissions by 40 percent, and decreasing fuel consumption by approximately 440,000 barrels of oil each year.

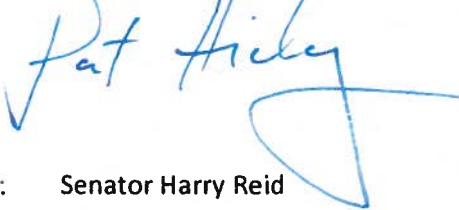
XpressWest has demonstrated that it meets all the statutory requirements of the RRIF program as well as achieving secondary requirements that include enhancing the environment, promoting economic development, and improving overall service and capacity in the national rail system. We urge approval of the loan to mark the first step in creating a regional high-speed passenger rail network in the Southwest.

Sincerely,

Speaker Marilyn Kirkpatrick,



Assemblyman Patrick Hickey,



Senator Moises Denis,



Senator Michael Roberson,



CC: Senator Harry Reid
Senator Dean Heller
Congresswoman Dina Titus
Congressman Mark Amodei
Congressman Joe Heck
Congressman Steven Horsford