



**SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT**

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2020

June 15, 2020

Lateefah Simon  
PRESIDENT

Mark Foley  
VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Powers  
GENERAL MANAGER

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

**DIRECTORS**

Debra Allen  
1ST DISTRICT

Mark Foley  
2ND DISTRICT

Rebecca Saltzman  
3RD DISTRICT

Robert Raburn, Ph.D.  
4TH DISTRICT

John McPartland  
5TH DISTRICT

Elizabeth Ames  
6TH DISTRICT

Lateefah Simon  
7TH DISTRICT

Janice Li  
8TH DISTRICT

Bevan Duffy  
9TH DISTRICT

On behalf of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART), thank you for introducing the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act (INVEST in America Act) and keeping our country's transportation infrastructure at the forefront of your committee.

The INVEST in America Act makes critical investments for surface transportation, including \$105 billion for public transportation. The increased levels of formula funding proposed in the bill are promising and provide long-term stability for transit projects that often take multiple years to plan, fund, and construct.

The bill also recognizes the immediate need for public transit agencies to continue to provide essential service during the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, the financial crisis facing transit operators, large and small, is dire. BART has experienced an over 90% loss in ridership and has forecasted revenue loss of up to \$600 million in Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021. The additional assistance within the INVEST in America Act for COVID-19 recovery and response will be critical to BART's ability to provide the level of service needed to meet public health and economic recovery goals.

The INVEST in America Act will allow the Bay Area to meet shifting mobility demand, create family-wage jobs, expand domestic manufacturing, and grow the economy after a crippling pandemic. It also puts us on the path to build more equitable communities while addressing the environmental and sustainability challenges facing our nation and the world.

Thank you again for your leadership on the INVEST in America Act. We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months as the bill moves out of Committee and to the floor for a full House vote.

Sincerely,

Bob Powers  
General Manager

cc: Members, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives