



Ventura County Transportation Commission

June 16, 2020

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

RE: SUPPORT FOR HR 7095 INVEST IN AMERICA ACT / AMENDMENT REQUEST

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

I am writing to you to express the support of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) for HR 7095, the "Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation (INVEST) in America Act. This Act makes critical investments for surface transportation infrastructure, while recognizing the need for public transit to continue providing essential service during the current pandemic. VCTC is very appreciative of your leadership in developing this bill.

As a multimodal transportation agency serving Ventura County, California, VCTC will be able to use the funds provided by the INVEST Act to ensure continued reliable bus and rail service serving essential workers and providing a viable option to driving. The INVEST Act will also help VCTC expand its robust investment in bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In addition, under the INVEST Act VCTC will be better able to implement planned projects to mitigate freeway congestion in the county. These funds will also help address the state-of-good-repair backlog for infrastructure. In addition, the INVEST in America Act addresses the environmental and sustainability challenges facing our communities, nation, and the world.

VCTC also requests an amendment to Section 2403 of HR 7095, related to zero-emission bus grants, to clarify that any transit agency that is required by state law or regulation to transition to a fully zero-emission bus fleet is eligible to receive grants from the program.

Thank you again for your leadership on these issues. We look forward continuing to work with you as this bill advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Kettle".

Darren M. Kettle
Executive Director