



June 19, 2003

The Honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0550

Dear Congressman Cunningham:


As a San Diego-based company with headquarters in Carmel Valley for over 14 years, we urge your support to secure funding needed for SR-56's missing freeway connectors to Interstate 5. This is one of San Diego's key transportation infrastructure projects that would greatly benefit from your continued support. This transportation infrastructure is critical to improving traffic flow in the Carmel Valley region, and is especially important to those of us who operate businesses and live in this community.

Once completed, SR-56 will create a critically needed link between Interstates 5 and 15. However, motorists traveling west on SR-56 will be forced to use local roads in Carmel Valley to access I-5 North, and motorists exiting I-5 south will be forced to use those same local roads to access SR-56 East. This will result in highly congested surface traffic, potential increases in traffic delays due to accidents, and additional wear-and-tear to local roads from increased traffic volume. It will directly and negatively impact the employees and customers of ATA Engineering.

Failure to secure funding and complete this project also will affect San Diego's housing shortage. There are approximately 6,500 housing units slated for construction in the communities adjacent to SR-56, including more than 1,000 affordable homes. However, development of these homes will be delayed until the connectors are completed, at a time when the demand for new housing continues to increase at an unprecedented pace. In particular, ATA Engineering is counting on this development to provide affordable, local housing for our growing base of employees. Otherwise, they will be forced to choose housing to the north or south, further exacerbating current freeway congestion.

Securing funding for the completion of the SR-56/I-5 connectors is a top priority among local business leaders. I encourage your continued efforts to secure funds for the missing SR-56 connectors.

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey W. Young, Ph.D., P.E.  
Vice President & General Manager