

BLACKSMITH

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

Subject: Funding for SR-56/I-5 Connectors

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

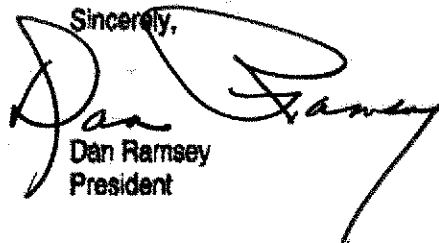
I am writing to you in support of your efforts to seek federal funding for the two missing connectors that are needed to complete State Route 56 (SR-56) where it intersects at Interstate 5 (I-5). This important infrastructure project is critical to meeting the transportation needs of San Diego companies and its employees.

With the completion of State Route 56 in 2004, San Diego will have created another important east-west freeway link between the I-5 and Interstate 15 (I-15) corridors. This will help reduce traffic congestion on these major north-south freeways in San Diego County. However, the lack of funding for the missing west-to-north and south-to-east SR-56 connectors will result in freeway traffic being diverted to local streets which also will add to the congestion on I-5 and I-15.

The San Diego Association of Governments recently issued its draft MOBILITY 2030 Regional Transportation Plan which includes smart-growth scenarios that will benefit both the business sector and residential communities. MOBILITY 2030 includes funding for the two missing connectors, but the earliest completion date would be 2010, and the completion date could slip to as late as 2014. If the connectors are not completed by 2008, the business and residential growth in this part of north San Diego County will be forced to move to other San Diego communities, the unincorporated county, south Riverside County, or even Tijuana. Completing the connectors will improve traffic flow and will be more cost-effective than building the additional infrastructure that will be required on other roadways if the missing connectors are not built.

I want to thank you again for your continued efforts and commitment to seek funding for the SR-56 connectors so this vital transportation infrastructure project can be completed.

Sincerely,



Dan Ramsey
President