



March 25, 2003

The Honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham
U.S. House of Representatives, 51st District
2350 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0550

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

As a business owner in Carmel Valley, I want to express my support of your efforts to secure federal funding for the missing north connectors at Interstate 5 (I-5)/State Route 56 (SR-56).

Carmel Valley enjoys a vibrant business community and has become one of North San Diego County's most successful economic hubs. However, increased traffic congestion continues to be a major concern for business owners and residents in Carmel Valley. Until the missing connectors are completed, the additional traffic that will be forced onto local streets will increase the risk of accidents, impact worker productivity, and discourage business growth in the Carmel Valley area.

Another important issue related to the missing SR-56 connectors is that the growing need for housing will be delayed until the connectors are completed. The impacts of this delay are considerable and wide-sweeping. First, up to 6,500 planned homes, including more than 1,000 affordable homes, cannot be constructed without the connectors in place. This will result in as many as 17,000 new residents seeking housing opportunities in other sections of the City of San Diego, other cities around San Diego County, or possibly as far away as Riverside County or Tijuana.

Again, I want to thank you for your extensive efforts and commitment to the businesses and residents of our community in seeking funding for the SR-56 connectors, and I urge you to continue these efforts.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Blake
President

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