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March 13, 2003

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

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

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

I am writing to encourage your continued efforts to seek federal funding for the missing State Route 56 (SR 56)/Interstate 5 (I-5) freeway connectors. When it is completed, SR-56 will provide an important link between Interstate 15 (I-15) and I-5. It will also help reduce traffic on Black Mountain Road, Miramar Road and Mira Mesa Boulevard, which serve as the major links between I-15 and I-5 and Interstate 805.

Unfortunately, this important east-west freeway will be incomplete at the I-5/SR-56 interchange because funds have not yet been identified to build the west-to-north and south-to-east connectors. Until these two missing connectors are completed, traffic congestion will certainly occur on local streets at the west end of SR-56, and will create traffic delays that could extend to I-15.

Additionally, without the completion of the SR-56/I-5 connectors, the City of San Diego will be unable to implement its smart growth planning. The construction of approximately 6,500 residential units -- of which more than 1,000 are affordable homes -- will be delayed until the connectors are in place. These residential units would house as many as 17,000 people who would need to find housing elsewhere in San Diego County or in neighboring counties in the region. This will increase the need for additional infrastructure improvements that will be more costly than building the connectors.

As Congress considers the reauthorization of federal transportation funds this year, we encourage your support for funding the missing SR-56 connectors. Our businesses and residents are grateful for your efforts to secure federal funding to relieve traffic congestion in the San Diego region.

Sincerely,

Linda Porcelli  
Chair

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