

April 8, 2003

The Honorable Randy "Duke" Cunningham
2350 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Cunningham:

Thank you for your continued efforts in garnering federal funding for regional transportation projects. At this time, we respectfully request your support for the completion of the State Route 56 and Interstate 5 connectors.

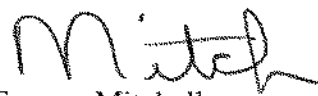
Once completed, the State Route 56 and Interstate 5 connectors will help create a much-needed link between Interstate 15, and I-5, relieving traffic congestion and allowing commerce to flow more easily on both of these north-south freeways.

Thanks to the leadership of SANDAG, the City of San Diego, the County Board of Supervisors and Caltrans, the middle segment of SR-56 is scheduled to open in July 2004. State and local funding is being used to complete the middle section of SR-56 and federal funding is needed to complete the missing freeway connectors. These missing connectors are the west to north and south to east connectors. Completion of these connectors is consistent with the 30-year Regional Transportation Plan and is a major element in future smart-growth planning.

If the connectors are not completed by 2008, economic growth will move to other regions. Approximately, 6,500 residential units, including more than 1,000 affordable units, will be delayed until the connectors are completed. Housing would then potentially be provided in other areas ill equipped to handle additional traffic congestion. Without these connectors, drivers will have to use local streets in the Carmel Valley area to navigate between SR-56 and I-5.

The Chamber appreciates the commitment you have made to represent the San Diego region's interests especially during difficult fiscal times. On behalf of San Diego's business community, thank you for your support and commitment. We look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,



Eugene Mitchell
Vice President, Public Policy
& Communication