

March 20, 2003

Congressman Randy "Duke" Cunningham  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0550

**RE: Funding for SR 56 North Connectors**

Dear Congressman Cunningham:

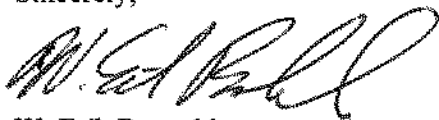
On behalf of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, I am writing to request your support in obtaining federal funds for the missing freeway connectors between I-5 and SR 56.

As you know, Carmel Valley and the surrounding area has become an important regional economic activity center and is home to many of San Diego's technology, telecommunications and biotech companies. Traffic congestion on both I-5 and the local streets in the area is a major problem for these businesses. While the improvements to the I-5/I-805 merge and the opening of SR 56 between I-5 and I-15 will provide some much needed relief, serious problems will continue without the north connectors between SR 56 and I-5. Local streets will need to be utilized to connect between the freeways, creating traffic congestion and safety hazards for residents and businesses alike.

The construction of the connectors will do more than relieve traffic congestion, however. If the connectors are not in place, as many as 6,500 planned residential units (including 1,000 affordable units) in close proximity to regional employment centers cannot be constructed. Increasing the supply of proximate affordable housing is of paramount importance to the businesses in the area, and to the economic health of our region, in general. If housing is not provided near employment centers, employees will have to look to outlying areas for affordable housing, which will further impact our already congested freeways. The lack of affordable housing in San Diego puts the region at a serious disadvantage to attracting new business and retaining existing business.

We need the connectors now in order to meet the challenges of existing traffic and to ensure that planned housing units are provided. I hope you will help obtain the funding necessary to complete the connectors as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



W. Erik Bruvold  
Vice President

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