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June 4, 2022

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez  
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee  
State Capitol, Room 405  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1778 (Cristina Garcia): State Transportation Funding: Freeway Projects: Poverty and Pollution: Department of Transportation – OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED**

Dear Chair Gonzalez:

On behalf of the Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC), I am writing to express our position of **oppose unless amended** on Assembly Bill (AB) 1778 (Cristina Garcia), as amended March 24 and as revised April 19, which would eliminate any capacity projects on the state highway system in areas falling within the zero to 50<sup>th</sup> percentile score on the California Healthy Places Index, a resource developed by a non-governmental entity.

Madera County does not enjoy the same density as Los Angeles County. For context, the Bay Area has a population of 6.8 million over 7,300 square miles, Los Angeles County has 10 million people living over 4,700 square miles, while the Valley has 4.3 million people spread out over 27,000 square miles. The Bay Area has nearly 60% more people living in an area a quarter the size of the Valley. Los Angeles has more than 2.5 times the population over 1/6 of the area. While we do have the same air quality concerns, we do have many disadvantaged communities, farmworkers, laborers, and blue-collar workers that must rely on the automobile to conduct business and daily activity. Our county also has a fiduciary responsibility to execute on our voter-approved measure program (Measure T) to enhance safety and mobility for goods movement and to accommodate the visitors that help bolster our tourist economy.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the author amend this bill to be a district bill, and consider pursuing alternative strategies, such as more funding for clean trucks, buses, charging stations, and bicycle and pedestrian projects made available through various state programs. Unless amended, MCTC opposes this bill. We understand that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority recently took action to abandon any widening of Interstate 710, perhaps solving the issue.

**Member Agencies: County of Madera, City of Madera, City of Chowchilla**

For these reasons, we ask you consider our position of oppose unless amended when it is heard in your Senate Committee on Transportation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our legislative advocate, Gus Khouri, at (916) 605-8975 or [gus@khouriconsult.com](mailto:gus@khouriconsult.com).

Sincerely,



Patricia Taylor  
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Senate Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Cristina Garcia, Assembly Member, 58<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Frank Bigelow, Assembly Member, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senator, 12<sup>th</sup> District  
The Honorable Adam Gray, Assembly Member, 21<sup>st</sup> District