



June 3, 2019

Honorable Assemblymember Jim Frazier, Chair  
Assembly Transportation Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 112  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Via Email**

**Re: Support SB 742 – Intercity passenger rail service**

Dear Assemblymember Frazier,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations we are pleased to provide this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 742, which would amend Section 14035.55 provisions to enable the Joint Power Authorities (San Joaquin, Capitol Corridor, and LOSSAN) to pick up and drop off passengers on their Amtrak intercity thruway bus routes without requiring them to have a train ticket as part of their trip.

Amending Section 14035.55 could have a very positive effect on California's underserved priority and rural communities by providing a convenient and inexpensive alternative to the rising costs of automobile and airline travel. Connecting these communities to each other and to California's large economic centers would increase safe and affordable transportation options between these communities. We believe that SB 742 will help improve access and connectivity to underserved communities that depend on walking, biking, and transit as their main forms of transportation.

California's Amtrak Thruway Bus Network is one of the largest intercity bus networks in the United States connecting over 250 communities throughout California and major cities in Nevada. This network is underutilized because of the Section 14035.55 restriction on who can use this network, being limited

to only those who ride a train on a segment of their travel. By eliminating this restriction, the State could provide transportation services to more people while reducing energy consumption and emissions. This bill will also help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and air pollution emissions by diverting trips that would have previously been taken by an automobile and provide better utilization of current infrastructure and reduce congestion on some of the state's most congested freeways.

Intercity passenger rail and its associated Thruway bus network is environmentally friendly, and the state has a continuing interest in the provision of cost-effective and efficiently administered intercity passenger rail/Thruway bus services.

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for SB 742 to help move California forward.

Sincerely,

Esther Rivera, State Policy Manager  
California Walks

Carter Rubin, Mobility and Climate Advocate  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Joshua Stark, State Policy Director  
Transform

Adina Levin  
Seamless Bay Area

Dave Snyder  
California Bicycle Coalition

Matthew Baker, Policy Director  
Planning and Conservation League

Jonathan Matz, California Senior Policy Manager  
Safe Routes Partnership

Katherine Garcia, Policy Advocate  
Sierra Club California

Veronica Tovar, Environmental Justice Program Manager  
Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton

Julia Jordan, Policy Coordinator

Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability

Eva Inbar, Vice President  
Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

Jeff Thom, Chair, Governmental Affairs  
CA Council of the Blind