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November 5, 2014

Dear Colleague,

This year's midterm elections, while disheartening, must serve to focus our intentions and strategy to secure the future of the Democratic Party. It is with this focus and eye to strategy that I ask for your support in my bid to serve as Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

As Ranking Member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I have succeeded in building a constructive working relationship with my Republican counterpart to advance major reauthorization legislation in H.R. 4005, the *Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act*. Our bipartisan bill passed the House by voice vote last April and may be signed into law before the end of this Congress. Chairman Hunter and I have also partnered on a number of initiatives where we've found common ground, including policies to promote domestic shipyards and U.S. merchant marine.

Since coming to Congress, I have consistently fought for the "Make It In America" agenda, authoring and supporting bills to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent on American-made equipment and jobs. I served on the Conference Committee for the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), working with my colleagues to develop a bicameral, bipartisan conference report that was signed into law to address vital water infrastructure issues. On matters of surface transportation reauthorization, I have been a leading voice in support of President Obama's GROW AMERICA Act, working with the Department of Transportation to raise the bill's profile. Vigilant of opportunities to promote mission through message, I have led regular Special Order Hours over the years, many focused on the need for strong transportation and infrastructure investment.

My commitment to transportation issues predates my time in Congress and can be traced through my four decades of public service. Most notably, in 1990, I authored SCA 1, which became California Proposition 111. Among the most important transportation propositions in California history, this measure ensured government expenditure limits would not unnecessarily restrict the infrastructure improvements needed to keep pace with California's population and economic growth. The initiative led to voter approval of an $18.5 billion transportation package that helped improve roads and transit corridors throughout the state. For this work, I was named Legislator of the Year by the League of California Cities, and to this day, Prop 111 provides funding for cash-strapped highways and public transit systems in California.

A demonstrated ability to preserve Democratic ideals while working across the aisle to get things done will be crucial in the next Congress, and particularly in this Committee. With major legislative initiatives on the horizon that include surface transportation, FAA, and Amtrak reauthorization, the Democratic transportation agenda calls for a strong, inclusive, proactive leader who looks beyond divisive dualities to facilitate opportunity, momentum, and results. This is the leadership I aim to bring.

Thank you for your consideration. Indeed, the road before us is long, but I am confident its condition will be vastly improved by the time we're done.

Sincerely,

JOHN GARAMENDI
Third District, California

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