

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2012

Board of Directors
Bay Area Rapid Transit
300 Lakeside Dr.
Oakland, CA 94604-2688

Dear Directors,

As Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) considers bids on 260 new rail cars, we encourage you to give top tier consideration to firms that are maximizing Buy America content. We believe we must Make It In America to rebuild our country's manufacturing sector. Our fare box money and our federal tax dollars should go toward manufacturing American equipment and employing American workers.

As the largest transit agency on the West Coast, BART is in a strong position to help create thousands of American jobs with this multi-billion dollar bid for new rail cars. If BART invests the more than three billion dollars in a bid that employs American workers, other transportation equipment manufacturers will take notice of BART's commitment to America.

As Members of Congress representing communities serviced by BART, we want our region to be a leader in creating American jobs. We have been tireless advocates to Make It In America, and we have stood with the BART Board when it has reaffirmed its support for Buy America procurement policies.

We are grateful for BART's public and vocal leadership to Make It In America, but now is the time to convert words into actions. We do not want to see a repeat of the Bay Bridge Chinese steel boondoggle. When considering bids for new rail cars, BART should Make It In America and choose a firm fully committed to growing the American economy.

When we vote to fund transportation funding in Congress, including BART, we want to make sure that federal taxpayer dollars are supporting American workers. When we speak to our constituents, we want them to know that our region's transportation agencies are with us as we fight to reinvest in America's transportation infrastructure and support the middle class.

With public investments at BART and other transportation agencies, we need to Make It In America, not subsidize foreign competitors. We ask that BART maximize Make It In America and American jobs when considering bids for contracts.

Sincerely,

W. L. L. L. L.
Lynn C. L. L.
Barbara Lee

Mike Simpson
and G. Scott