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May 19, 2017

Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0051

RE: AB 805 (Gonzalez Fletcher) - Support

Dear Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of Circulate San Diego, whose mission is to create excellent mobility choices and vibrant, healthy neighborhoods, I am writing to express our support for AB 805 to reform transportation entities in the San Diego region.

The structure of our metropolitan planning organization SANDAG, as well as our two transit agencies, MTS and NCTD, need reform. All three entities distribute power disproportionately among smaller and less central jurisdictions, which is not consistent with the democratic principles of one person, one vote.

The structure of our transportation organizations also results in policy outcomes that are not consistent with California's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Instead of prioritizing transit and active transportation to help San Diegans move about our region, SANDAG often relies on counterproductive strategies such as expanding freeways.

For voters to support a ballot measure to fund transit in the future, they must have trust that our transportation agencies have the right values in place, and are structured to represent the voters fairly.

We want to thank you for committing to a variety of amendments to AB 805's initial draft. These amendments will ensure that while transportation policy will be made in a manner that is more representative of the region's population, small cities will retain a meaningful voice in decisionmaking.

For San Diego to move forward, and to achieve our collective greenhouse gas goals, we need the structural reform called for by AB 805. Thank you for your leadership on this effort.

Sincerely,

Jim Stone
Executive Director, Circulate San Diego