



MENDOCINO
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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April 24, 2009

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: ALTERNATIVE FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CARBON FOOTPRINT
REDUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Thompson,

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), as the regional transportation planning agency for Mendocino County, strongly supports the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure and Carbon Footprint Reduction project as a High Priority Project (HPP) for District 1 in California for the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

Mendocino Transit Authority (MTA) has long been a leader in rural transportation in California. This project will enable MTA to continue that leadership into the 21st century by providing more efficient facilities that will actually reduce the system's dependence on fossil fuels. This is important to our nation from the standpoint of national security and is also important locally because of California's effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This project is already identified in MTA's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP was adopted at a properly noticed meeting open for public comment. Additional opportunities for public comment will become available as MTA's annual funding claims are reviewed and approved through MCOG's annual funding process.

MCOG maintains a Capital Reserve Fund to provide for the long term needs of MTA's system. If this project is approved, it is anticipated that remaining funds necessary to complete this project will come from a combination of state sources (Proposition 1B bonds) and the existing Capital Reserve Fund.

MTA's proposed project is a good example of the type of investment that needs to be made in our transportation infrastructure. Please give this project strong consideration for reauthorization funding.

Sincerely,

Phillip J. Dow, P.E.
Executive Director