



Advocate for the Heavy Construction Industry

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U.S. HOUSE VOTE TO ZERO OUT HIGH SPEED RAIL FUNDING IS SHORTSIGHTED AND WILL COST CALIFORNIA ONE MILLION JOBS

SACRAMENTO: Jim Earp, Executive Director, California Alliance for Jobs, issued the following statement in response to the U.S. House of Representatives vote Thursday on a spending bill which zeroes out funding for high speed rail.

“Today’s vote to zero out funding for high speed rail is disappointing. High speed rail is smart fiscal policy and uses federal dollars wisely to meet the infrastructure needs of our nation, create jobs and provide an economic boost.

“Smart policy should be the yardstick by which funding for high speed rail is measured, nothing else. In California, the plan to build a high speed train running from San Francisco to Los Angeles meets that test.

“High speed rail is the most cost-effective way to accommodate our state’s growing population. It will create jobs, give our economy a boost, improve air quality and relieve traffic congestion.

“To meet the same level of capacity without high speed rail, California would need to add 2,300 miles of new freeway lanes, 115 new airport gates and four new runways at a cost of \$170 billion, nearly double the cost of high speed rail.

“And building high speed rail in California will create more than a million jobs, including more than 600,000 construction jobs over the life of the project. California currently has the second highest rate of unemployment in the nation. High speed rail will create much-needed jobs that will boost our state’s economy at a time when we desperately need it.

“Thankfully, this is not the end of the process and I’m hopeful that as the spending plan moves forward, sensible heads will prevail and the benefits of California’s high speed rail plan will not be ignored.”

The California Alliance for Jobs represents more than 2,000 heavy construction companies and 80,000 union construction workers from Kern County to the Oregon border. The Alliance advocates responsible investment in public infrastructure projects to help build a secure future for all Californians.