

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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JAMES S. MITRISIN
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February 7, 2017

The Honorable Frank Bigelow
California State Assembly
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0005

RE: AB 174 (Bigelow) – Support

Dear Assemblyman Bigelow,

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is in support of AB 174, which would require one voting member of the California Transportation Commission to reside in a county with a population of less than 100,000 individuals. The California Transportation Commission's mission is to be a unified voice for transportation issues in California; however, each of the eleven members of the California Transportation Commission currently reside in a county with a population over one million. It is impossible for the Commission to meet their mission as a unified voice for transportation issues in California with this formation.

The history of our County began with the discovery of gold in 1848. The smaller towns and communities throughout our County that had their beginnings due to the Historic Gold Rush developed into ranching, farming and timber communities that remain today. Our County maintains just over 1,080 miles of roadway; a rural road system that was established along with our County's history and continues to support these same rural historic communities.

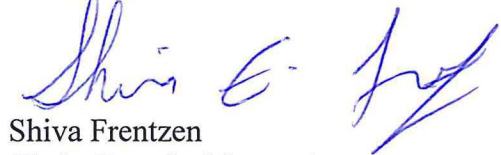
While our current population estimate at 184,180 residents does not meet the residency provisions as defined within AB 174 we are a rural county with unique road maintenance issues. We applaud your effort to ensure that all rural counties are represented by a Commission member who not only utilizes rural roads on a regular basis, but can speak firsthand to the daily road maintenance challenges facing not only their home county but all of California's rural counties.

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AB 174 will ensure the voices of small, rural California counties are heard on transportation issues. Without rural representation on the Commission, it is impossible for the Commission to meet their mission as a unified voice for transportation issues in California.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors enthusiastically supports AB 174 and thanks you for your continued advocacy for California's rural counties.

Sincerely,



Shiva Frentzen
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of El Dorado

cc: The Honorable Ted Gaines, California State Senate
The Assembly Committee on Transportation
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties
El Dorado County Transportation Commission