

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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March 7, 2017

Assemblyman Vince Fong
State Capitol, Rm. 4144
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: SUPPORT – AB 496 (Fong): Traffic Relief and Road Improvement Act

Dear Assemblyman Fong,

On behalf of El Dorado County, we would like to express our strong support for AB 496.

AB496 is a comprehensive funding plan that improves our infrastructure and builds new capacity on highways using existing revenues and without raising taxes or fees. This measure includes reforms to make transportation spending more accountable and efficient, and eliminates regulatory barriers that prevent traffic relief.

Our current funding system is broken and not serving its intended purpose. Despite California drivers paying the nation's highest gas tax and second highest gas prices overall, road and highways remain poor and traffic congestion continues to worsen. The state budget has grown significantly over the last decade, but funding for transportation has remained stagnant. The consequence of the status quo is higher costs for motorists to operate their vehicles and too much time spent idle in traffic, which costs our economy billions and disproportionately hurting low-income families.

With AB 496, the legislature has an opportunity to restore the promise to California taxpayers that all the tax dollars they provide for using our transportation system goes towards improving our roads. This is the only responsible proposal that properly invests in our roads without increasing taxes and fees, and we therefore strongly support this measure.

Sincerely,

Shiva Frentzen, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors