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September 29, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairperson, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
SD-410 Dirksen SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dedicated Allowances to Transportation in Climate Change Legislation

Dear Senator Boxer,

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the metropolitan planning organization for the San Francisco Bay Area, is grateful for your leadership in your soon to be introduced legislation to address climate change. As your Committee debates this legislation, we urge inclusion of dedicated funding allowances in the Senate's legislation. Nationally, transportation is responsible for roughly 28 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; in California, this share is nearer to 40 percent.

The House passed bill, H.R. 2454 (Waxman/Markey), recognizes the importance of reducing transportation emissions by requiring that states and metropolitan areas adopt new planning requirements and goals to reduce GHG emissions; unfortunately, the bill provides virtually no allowances for this purpose. This is an unfunded and new regulatory mandate that we hope your bill will adequately address.

As you finalize the Senate proposal, we request that transportation receives a dedicated share of allowances commensurate with the sector's contribution to the problem. Resources are needed for the federal planning requirements and, more importantly, implementation through policies, programs and projects to reduce global warming.

We look forward to working with you to build a more sustainable, energy-efficient transportation future for the U.S.

Sincerely,

Ann Flemer

Ann Flemer
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

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