Office of the Governor
March 31, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Gary Cohn, Director
United States National Economic Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: XpressWest High Speed Rail Service

Dear President Trump, Secretary Chao and Director Cohn,

As Governor of the State of Nevada, I write in support of the XpressWest High Speed Rail Project, which will connect Las Vegas, Nevada to Southern California via high-speed passenger rail, as outlined in the attached summary of the Project. The XpressWest Project exemplifies Nevada’s commitment to maintain its competitive edge, advanced manufacturing, and unrivaled standards for travel and tourism, while also expanding and strengthening its engagement with Southern California—a huge contributor toward Southern Nevada’s economic success.

Southern Nevada’s economy is heavily dependent on tourism, which is derived in large part from Southern California. Approximately 11 million Californians travel between Southern California and Southern Nevada each year. Today, Interstate 15, which is the primary corridor connecting the two regions, is so heavily congested that it actually deters individuals from travelling between the two regions. In addition, the volume of passenger vehicles severely restricts good movement from the Los Angeles basin. This significant loss of commerce for the Southwest United States can be remedied by the XpressWest Project.

Beyond the benefits to our economy from increased tourism and significant job creation, XpressWest lays the foundation for this Nation’s commitment to modernizing transportation infrastructure in an environmentally-friendly way. The greenhouse gas emissions that would be reduced by lowering traffic between the two regions is substantial, particularly in light of expected population increases over the coming decades. The completion of XpressWest is a significant step toward achieving a national smart transportation infrastructure and would serve as a model for the rest of our nation to follow.
To date, XpressWest has been developed and funded completely by the private sector. A project of this magnitude and regional significance likely cannot succeed without the assistance and support of the federal government. I understand that high speed rail is a priority for you with regard to modernizing the nation's transportation infrastructure. This project, years in the making, could help you reach your goal. On behalf of the State of Nevada, I respectfully request you and your agency consider supporting this significant infrastructure project.

Sincere regards,

[Signature]

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

cc: XpressWest