



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Jim Beall
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1 – SUPPORT
As Amended March 30, 2017**

Dear Senator Beall:

On behalf of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), I offer our support for your recently-amended Senate Bill 1, which addresses funding for improving our state and local transportation needs.

RCRC is an association of thirty-five rural California counties, and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from those member counties. Rural county supervisors are extensively involved in transportation-related issues on two primary fronts: 1) Boards of Supervisors oversee public works directors/departments and subsequently help maintain the road network of their respective county; and, 2) many Supervisors sit as members of local transportation planning agencies where determining and funding projects are prioritized and developed.

The RCRC Board of Directors does not take lightly the notion of raising motor vehicle fuel taxes and other levies on motorists. Often times, these taxes can become punitive to rural drivers who must travel greater distances for school, work, shopping, and health care services. And, many low-income rural motorists will see a disproportionate amount of their household budgets devoted to the levies that are spelled-out in SB 1. Ideally, RCRC member counties would like to see a serious revision of laws and policies that ultimately deliver both state- and locally-sponsored transportation projects in a less expensive and timelier manner. However, our members recognize that our state and local road infrastructure is in a perilous condition. And, if new resources are not devoted to rehabilitate our transportation assets within the next several months, the costs will increase dramatically.

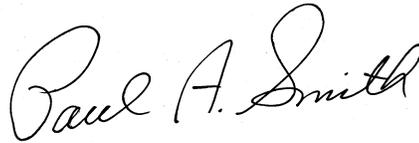
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In that spirit, we offer our support for SB 1 as it offers the best solution available to the Legislature to fix our streets, roads, and highways. While far from perfect, our Board of Directors believes that SB 1 can bring much-needed resources that are desperately required in our member counties. Your SB 1 also recognizes the need to maintain and rehabilitate the existing system rather than placing monies into adding capacity. While we all recognize that adding capacity to our entire infrastructure is an important goal, our first priority must be to address the current deterioration of our existing transportation infrastructure.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

PAUL A. SMITH
Vice President, Governmental Affairs

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor, State of California
Members of the State Legislature