



736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager (707) 822-5953	Police 822-2428	Recreation 822-7091
Community Development 822-5955	Finance 822-5951	Transportation 822-3775
Environmental Services Streets/Utilities 822-5957	Environmental Services Community Services 822-8184	Engineering & Building 825-2128

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Ben Allen  
State Capitol, Room 4076  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Attention: Zak Castillo-Krings

**RE: SB 742, Intercity Passenger Rail Services: Motor Coach Transportation of Passengers—Notice of SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Allen,

The City of Arcata is pleased to provide this letter of support for Senate Bill (SB) 742, which would amend Section 14035.55 provisions to enable the Joint Power Authorities to pick up and drop off passengers on their Amtrak intercity thruway bus routes without requiring them to have a train ticket as part of their trip.

We appreciate that SB 742 provisions would:

- Increase revenues for the state at virtually no additional cost
- Provide improved access to priority and underserved communities
- Reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and air pollution emissions by diverting trips that would have previously been taken by an automobile
- Provide better utilization of current infrastructure and reduce congestion on some of the state's most congested freeways

California's Amtrak Thruway Bus Network is one of the largest intercity bus networks in the United States connecting over 250 communities throughout California including Arcata. This network is underutilized because of the Section 14035.55 restriction on who can use this network, being limited to only those who ride a train on a segment of their travel. Arcata no longer has train access. By eliminating this restriction, the State could provide transportation services to more people while reducing energy consumption and emissions.

Amending Section 14035.55 could have a very positive effect on California's underserved priority and rural communities by providing a convenient and inexpensive alternative to the rising costs of automobile and airline travel. Connecting these communities to each other and to California's large economic centers would increase safe and affordable transportation options between these communities.

Intercity passenger rail and its associated Thruway bus network is environmentally friendly, and the state has a continuing interest in the provision of cost-effective and efficiently administered intercity passenger rail/Thruway bus services.

We are pleased to provide this letter of support for SB 742 to help move California forward.

Sincerely,



Michael Winkler, Vice Mayor  
City of Arcata

cc:

Senator Mike McGuire, Senator.McGuire@senate.ca.gov & VIA FAX: (916) 651-4902

Congressman Jared Huffman, John.Driscoll@mail.house.gov

Assembly Member Jim Wood, VIA FAX: (707) 445-6607 & (916) 319-2102

Sara Sanders, League Regional Public Affairs Manager, sanders@cacities.org

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