



January 14, 2022

The Honorable Laura Friedman
Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
1020 N. Street, Suite 112
Sacramento, CA 95814

Sent via email:

CC: Hon. Lena A Gonzalez, CA State Senate Transportation Chair
Hon Anthony Rendon, Assembly Speaker
Hon. Toni Atkins, Senate Pro Tem

Dear Chair Friedman:

The [Rail Electrification Council](#) (REC or Council) was created to develop programs and activities to advance investment in the transportation and energy industries consistent with the ongoing transformation of the North American economies as they respond to the challenges of emissions reduction, decarbonization of modern transportation, job-creation, and lowering the cost of energy for consumers and businesses.

The Council is a non-profit, member-driven affiliate of the [National Electrical Manufacturers Association](#) (NEMA).¹ Our members include major manufacturers, public utilities, electric transmission developers, and producers of clean energy and new technologies. We believe that strengthening and decarbonizing the energy delivery and transportation industries is a matter of both domestic security and international competitiveness.

Our Support

This letter offers our support and assistance for the California High Speed Rail Authority's plans for electrification in the Central Valley. The Council acknowledges that electrification is already considered the best energy source for high-density urban and commuter rail services. Our whitepaper on [The Value of Rail Electrification](#) objectively provides the challenges associated with rail electrification, its benefits, and a path forward to achieve them.

The Council commends the vision and foresight of the California High Speed Rail Authority and its electrification project that additionally has its own dedicated right of way and eliminates grade crossings (both road and other rail lines) to allow passenger trains to safely run at high speeds. The Council recognizes that there are many viable options for rail electrification, each dependent upon

¹ The nearly 325 NEMA Member companies provide a range of products used in buildings, industrial facilities and by utilities, transportation departments and hospitals. Collectively our membership provides some 370,000 American manufacturing jobs in more than 6,100 facilities, with worldwide industry sales exceeding \$140 billion. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nema.org/>.



a clear business case with an analysis of its costs and benefits, its financing and regulation, and its impacted stakeholders. It is clearly evident that the California High Speed Rail Authority has done this, and the Council supports the overhead contact system electrification method chosen for this project. Ultimately this project will: transform how people move around the state, spur economic growth, and create a cleaner environment. An appropriate international comparison is the United Kingdom's High Speed 2 (HS2) railway project that will form the backbone of Britain's transport network. It will connect London to towns and cities in the Midlands and North with faster, easier, and more reliable travel that will put more opportunities within reach for millions of people for work, business, and leisure.² Closer to home, the Council submitted for inclusion in the 2020 Nevada State DOT Rail Plan an unprecedented analysis of the benefits of electrification for freight rail as well as passenger rail.³ We hope you agree with us that rail electrification in the Southwest holds tremendous promise for unclogging commercial supply chains, reducing emissions, and improving transportation efficiency.

The Council looks forward to working with your offices, the California HSR, and other interested stakeholders to advance the deployment of electrified transportation infrastructure across the State of California.

If you have questions about the Council or its goals, please contact me or have your staff contact Steve Griffith, NEMA Senior Industry Director Transportation Systems, at Steve.Griffith@NEMA.org, and Jim Hoecker, Council Co-Founder, and former Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at james.hoecker@huschblackwell.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debra M. Phillips", is written over a horizontal line.

Debra M. Phillips
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debra.phillips@nema.org

² For more information, please visit <https://www.hs2.org.uk/>

³ For more information, please visit [Nevada DOT Rail Plan](#)