



April 7, 2017

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
80th Assembly District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

RE: SUPPORT AB 805 – SANDAG Accountability and San Diego-Area Transportation Reform

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of Climate Action Campaign we write to thank you for your leadership and to express strong support for Assembly Bill 805. Climate Action Campaign's mission is to stop climate change through policy action. This bill will allow our region to develop a world-class transportation system that cuts toxic pollution from cars and trucks, improves quality of life, helps create family-sustaining jobs and enables our cities to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets established in their Climate Action Plans.

The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is a broken agency. It is failing our community, our citizens and our region. While other major cities build out and modernize their transit systems, our region – under SANDAG - continues to fall behind. Their regional transportation plan is under litigation for failing to meet state climate targets. And, the community's repeated demands for equitable, healthier transportation options have been met with proposals to continue widening freeways in some of our most vulnerable, low-income and communities of color already devastated by pollution. Finally, we recently learned SANDAG deceived voters about Measure A, lying to the public about the money it would raise for local transportation projects.

AB 805 is the kind of change we can believe in. It will bring much-needed reform, accountability and democracy to SANDAG. It will also empower transit agencies like the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and North County Transit District (NCTD) to pursue their own voter funding for public transit. Allowing MTS and NCTD to levy taxes is a more strategic way to serve regional transportation needs as both agencies exclusively focus on transit and operations.

Our citizens deserve better. We need accountability and transparency to restore faith in our local governmental bodies. We need an equitable, world-class transportation system that reduces pollution, addresses climate change and provides residents walking, biking or public transit choices. AB 805 is smart, sensible reform. We applaud you for stepping up, we strongly support this vital legislation and will help in whatever way possible to ensure its passage.

Sincerely,

Sophie Wolfram
Policy Advocate, Climate Action Campaign