February 2, 2005

The Honorable George Miller United States House of Representatives 2205 Rayburn Building Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

I am writing to advise you of my support in obtaining TEA-21 authorization for the <u>eBART commuter rail system</u> that will link eastern Contra Costa County with the BART system to access job centers throughout the Bay Area.

We strongly support the request for this authorization that has been submitted to your office by Contra Costa County.

The <u>eBART commuter rail line</u> will require the purchase of a portion of the freight railroad tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. Known as the "Mococo" line, these tracks will provide a major part of the route for eBART as it connects the communities of eastern Contra Costa County with the existing BART station at Pittsburg/Bay Point. The \$40 million requested in the TEA-21 authorization will greatly assist in efforts to acquire the right-of-way from Union Pacific.

This project will help alleviate congestion on State Route 4, which is one of the most congested freeways in the Bay Area. The voters in Contra Costa County and the Bay Area have done their parts by allocating a total of \$246 million in two recent ballot measures for eBART. The TEA-21 authorization will help complete the funding package for this vital project.

Your assistance in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your efforts to improve the quality of life in eastern Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

MARY N. PIEPHO County Supervisor, District III

Cc: Members, Board of Supervisors Sara Hoffman, County Administrator