



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

January 28, 2010

Bruce Aguilera, Chairman
California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission
3600 Las Vegas Boulevard South
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

RE: High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program Selection Decisions

Dear Mr. Aguilera:

On behalf of President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Secretary of Transportation LaHood, I thank you for your interest in the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program. However, for the following reasons, the application from the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission was deemed ineligible for funding.

First, the application contained a request to fund a project that was not eligible under the requirements set forth in the Interim HSIPR Program Guidance. Specifically, the application intends to complete the environmental and preliminary engineering documentation necessary for the construction of a brand new high-speed rail service where none currently exists, which is not eligible for Track 1b funds. Second, the Commission was found to be an ineligible applicant as defined by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA), 49 U.S.C. 24401. Under the PRIIA, only States, Groups of States, Interstate Compacts, Public Agencies established by one or more States with responsibility for providing high-speed or intercity passenger rail service, and Amtrak were eligible to apply for HSIPR funds.

Again, thank you for your interest in helping to make passenger rail a safe and competitive transportation option in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph C. Szabo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Szabo" clearly legible.

Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator