

Access Washington, D.C.

April 15 - 18, 2008



Building America Together

Southern California's ports, airports, universities and roads make America stronger – delivering goods, visitors and graduates to the rest of the nation. It is a region spanning **38,000 square miles**— and home to **18 million people**. Southern California has more than **9,000 miles** of freeway lanes, is the entry point for **43 percent** of the nation's imports, boasts the world's busiest origin and destination airport and is home to **175 accredited** colleges and universities who are educating the nation's future workforce.

Government and business in our region are making significant infrastructure investments to fuel our national economy. Rebuilding California's infrastructure began in 2006 when California voters authorized \$40 billion worth of bonds for roads, housing, schools and water. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach recently enacted the most progressive port "green-growth" plan in the world. And the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is undergoing its first comprehensive renovation project in nearly 25 years.

Now, Southern California is looking to the federal government to invest more resources into these national assets so that we can build America together.

Aviation

\$61 billion is how much LAX contributes to the national economy each year

LAX continues renovations and safety improvements to accommodate the next generation of aircraft, while serving as a primary international gateway to the United States.

Education & Workforce Development

\$19 billion in L.A. school bonds are funding the largest public works project in U.S. history

Southern California is continuing to build a 21st century school system. The Los Angeles Unified School District—the second largest in the country—is in the middle of the largest building and modernization program in the nation to serve more than 700,000 students.

Health Care

7.6 million Californians receive health care from providers, yet 45 percent of Southern Californians lack health insurance

Expanding coverage to all Californians, including 760,000 children who are eligible for SCHIP, must be a top priority to reduce the number of uninsured and increase access to preventive care.

Housing

2.5 million new homes will be built in the Southern California region by 2035

Southern California is expected to grow by double the population of Chicago by 2020. Our region faces the nation's most severe housing crisis. Southern California needs more housing options for teachers, police officers, fire fighters, nurses, nonprofit workers and government employees.

International Trade & Investment

441,200 is the number of direct trade jobs in Southern California

Southern California has an international economy. Free Trade Agreements bring economic benefits, with exports accounting for 40 percent of U.S. economic growth during the past year.

Transportation & Goods Movement

\$348 billion is the value of two-way trade through the L.A. Customs District in 2007

The Southern California region is the hub for international trade. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach together are the world's fifth busiest port complex. The nation would lose an estimated \$1 billion per day without our ports.

Water

25 million people rely on the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta

A single flood event or earthquake along the delta could cause a \$70 billion catastrophe and cut off the water supply to millions of people. Federal investment in our region's water supply will prevent a Katrina-like human and economic disaster in the nation's most populous state.

Statistical Sources: Association of California Water Agencies, Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, Los Angeles World Airports, Southern California Association of Governments and UCLA Center for Health Policy Research



2008 Priority Issues

Aviation

Implement Safety Technology at LAX • New safety technology, such as runway status lights, should be fast-tracked at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to improve passenger safety and overall efficiency. LAX leads the nation in runway incursions. Fast implementation of this new technology and other alternatives leading to overall efficiency are needed.

Increase Customs and TSA Staffing Levels • Southern California airports are currently staffed at levels far below other airports in the nation, even though LAX is the nation's second largest international airport. Customs processing and TSA security screening delays hurt our economy and negatively impact overall safety at the airport.

Education & Workforce Development

Anti-gang Solutions • Provide dedicated federal funding streams for gang intervention, prevention and re-entry programs to stop the cycle of violence in our neighborhoods. Expand workforce development programs and educational opportunities for young people. In addition, the House should pass its version of the Senate's Gang Abatement and Prevention Act of 2007 (H.R. 1582). Supporting Los Angeles' commitment to crime reduction and reducing gang proliferation is vital to a national anti-gang strategy.

Early and K-12 Education • Support adequate funding and regulatory changes to No Child Left Behind, providing more state and local flexibility to help low-performing schools, expanding access to high quality early education and supporting 21st Century Community Learning Center grants and the Small Learning Communities Competitive grant program. Promote innovative ways to raise student achievement and reduce drop-out rates and create pathways for success.

Post-secondary and Higher Education • Increase investment in Pell Grant and other financial aid, Gear Up and TRIO programs to improve access to postsecondary opportunities for low-income students. Reintroduce and pass the DREAM Act to provide undocumented students with an opportunity to access higher education to create a stronger, more vibrant workforce. College access and completion is vital to maintaining global competitiveness.

Workforce Development • Build an effective workforce development system to improve our economy. Pass the Summer Jobs Stimulus Act of 2008 (S. 2755, Sen. Patty Murray, D-WA); reauthorize and adequately appropriate the Workforce Investment Act; fully fund the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act; expand math and science education to meet global demands (i.e. adequately fund the America Competes Act); and encourage mid-career professionals to enter teaching by eliminating the Social Security Penalties.

Energy & Climate Change

Reform Emissions Credits • Air quality has significantly improved in Southern California, but it is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain air permits due to shortages in emission credits needed for offsets under the air quality permitting rules. A new federal approach to emissions credits is vital to sustained economic development and environmental mitigation.

Support Appropriations Request for H.R. 2847, Green Collar Jobs Act of 2007 • A leader in the green movement, Southern California is ripe for the development of environmentally-friendly technologies. We need high-tech workers to operate and design these new systems. Incentives should be provided to encourage the growth of new green industries, development of the green workforce of tomorrow and R&D for new green technologies.

Support Clean Technology Tax Credits (H.R. 5351) • Expand renewable energy and clean tech tax credits to enable companies to invest in alternative forms of energy that will make the United States a leader in the clean tech sector. This also includes tax credits for energy efficient buildings.

Support Green House Gas Legislation Consistent with CA Codes • In 2006, the State of California passed AB 32—the landmark environmental legislation—which will reduce green house gas emissions in the state to 1990 levels by 2020. The federal government should follow suit and implement similar legislation using AB 32 as the base model in order to ensure nationwide uniformity.

Health Care

Maximize Public Health Funding • Local first responders around the nation still lack sufficient public health resources to handle a major flu pandemic or other disaster. Support increased public health funding, especially at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, to assist local efforts. This is essential to prevent another Katrina-like disaster, especially in highly-populated urban areas.

Oppose Administration's \$199 Billion Cuts to Medicare and Medicaid • President George Bush's FY 2009 budget proposed \$182 billion in cuts to Medicare and \$17 billion in cuts to Medicaid over the next five years. This includes cuts to vital California safety net services affecting children's care, hospital emergency rooms and clinics. Southern California is home to the nation's largest concentration of uninsured and underinsured residents.

Support Congress' Reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) • Support the Congressional version of SCHIP reauthorization and oppose President Bush's efforts to limit California's ability to expand SCHIP coverage to children up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. Additional or alternate revenue streams besides the tobacco tax should be identified. Investing in children's health today will lower overall health care costs in the future and protect the nation's most vulnerable constituency.

Building America Together

Support 6.6 Percent Increase for the National Institutes of Health •

Increase funding to help improve our nation's health and keep America competitive with the rest of the world. Southern California's biomedical industry depends upon a robust research environment, populated by academic and for-profit entities alike. In recent years, appropriations for the National Institutes of Health have not kept pace with inflation and have actually resulted in a loss of purchasing power.

Housing

Modify the HUD Allocation Formula • Change the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) allocation formula from a per capita basis to a proportional distribution based on actual need. This would end the unfair penalization of high cost, low-income urban areas like Southern California and other communities that face severe housing shortages.

Support the Creation of a Federal Employer Assisted Housing Program (S.1078, H.R. 1850) • Provide federal assistance for high-cost urban areas to address housing needs. Communities are negatively impacted when our local workforce including teachers, nurses, public safety officials and nonprofit workers, cannot afford to live nearby.

Support the Federal Housing Financing Reform Act of 2007 (H.R. 1427) • Help ensure sound capitalization and other federal financing practices for home loans and mortgages. By establishing a Federal Housing Financing Agency to provide better oversight of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Support the Homeownership Protection and Enhancement Act of 2007 (S. 1386) • Provide better assistance to low and moderate-income households by extending the HUD Act of 1968—an important component to preventing a repeat of the current housing crisis.

Support the Mortgage Reform and Anti-predatory Lending Act of 2007 (H.R. 3915) • Establish licensing requirements for lenders and minimum standards for loans in order to reform the high rate of foreclosures and put a stop to questionable lending practices.

Support the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 (H.R. 2895) • Continue to support and fund this important act which commits to producing, rehabilitating and preserving 1.5 million housing units over the next 10 years. This is especially important during the housing downturn.

Homelessness

Increase Funding and Targeted Outreach for Homeless Veterans • Our veterans have earned the maximum level of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-sponsored housing and supportive services. Congress should increase funding for VA housing and transition programs, especially for homeless veterans. In addition, support converting unused facilities on the West Los Angeles VA campus for these purposes.

Increase Funding for Transitional and Permanent Housing Programs and Support Service •

Support increasing the 2009 budget allocations funding HUD's homeless assistance programs and housing renewals, HUD's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service's Community Services Block and Social Services Block Grant programs. This funding is essential to reduce homelessness nationwide.

International Trade & Investment

Extend the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) • The TPA expired in June 2007 and has been an essential component in negotiating free trade agreements that open markets and expand business opportunities. Renewal of the TPA allows for new free trade agreements and a continuously expanding and growing U.S. economy.

Support Free Trade Agreements • Support the Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement, the Panama Free Trade Agreement and the Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement. Free trade is needed to ensure the growth of business opportunities for American workers. Successful FTAs with other countries have proven that California benefits from free trade. Legislation that eliminates trade barriers, allows for fair competition and protects investments and property rights is critical.

Support the Doha Round World Trade Organization Negotiations • Successful conclusions of these negotiations will decrease tariffs, expand market access, reduce exporting costs and facilitate custom procedures.

Science & Technology

Support Expedited Citizenship for Science and Technology Employees • Many foreign-born science and technology workers are employed by local education and scientific institutions. Recruited from overseas countries with the promise of expedited citizenship, many workers remain in immigration limbo. This hurts efficiency and results in a steady "brain drain" for vital U.S. industries as workers return to their home countries.

Support Federal Space Funding for Local Institutions • Support institutions, including the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), in efforts to secure funding for their space science programs. Federal space funding, especially NASA, is divided between human exploration programs and space sciences.

Small Business & Taxes

Oppose Unnecessary ADA Extension (H.R. 3195) • This bill would significantly increase litigation and increase the cost of business by expanding the scope of the Americans with Disabilities Act to provide those with minor impairments with the same protections as the severely disabled. For example, it places a war veteran who has lost a limb into the same category as someone who has tennis elbow or even a small scar.

Support Interstate Taxation Reform (H.R. 5267) • Limit disorganized and excessive interstate taxation in states where companies conduct

business but do not have a branch office or location. The Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2008 will strengthen interstate commerce laws and promote job growth.

Support Tax Reform and Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) Repeal •

Conduct a top-to-bottom analysis of the efficiency and long-term economic effects of the various federal taxes. Permanently repeal the AMT and use this opportunity to rein in discretionary spending in targeted areas.

Support the Research & Development (R&D) Renewal for

Economic Stimulus • The R&D tax credit that was extended needs further extension to protect America's competitiveness. R&D credits help produce middle class jobs by allowing manufacturers to deduct a portion of their taxes by employing people in the areas of scientific research and purchasing equipment produced and/or used by American manufacturers.

Transportation & Goods Movement

Create a National Freight Trust Fund • Create a separate account to fund much needed goods movement projects around the nation. Projects should be based on a national freight transportation plan developed in conjunction with states and metropolitan areas. Funding sources may include tax credits, a portion of customs duties revenues and a federal freight fee. Funds should be distributed solely by objective merit based criteria and spent on projects in the corridor in which they are generated.

Create Metropolitan Congestion Relief Fund • Support creating congestion relief funding for urban areas of more than 1 million people. Using traffic congestion, transit use and population exposure to air pollution as part of allocation formulas for congestion funds is necessary for transit, road and highway projects in these heavily impacted urban areas.

Diversify Transportation Funding Streams • New funding should prioritize user and beneficiary financing and public-private partnerships to the maximum extent feasible. Investigating a variety of sources to fund system improvements is needed. Any new federal program should be tied to an adequate funding stream.

Maximize New and Small Starts Funding • The federal government should continue to fund New and Small Starts programs at congressionally authorized levels and plan to increase funding above the current \$1.7 billion appropriations. Traditional bus and rail transit must be a primary component of all metropolitan mobility strategies that address congestion as well as energy independence and environmental sustainability.

Prevent Highway Trust Fund Insolvency • Projected Highway Trust Fund insolvency in 2009 must be prevented without removing money from other funds or modes of transportation. The Baucus-Grassley plan should be used to move emergency financial obligations and fuel credits to the general fund and crack down on fuel tax evasion.

Provide Greater Federal Support to Self-help Localities • Support a greater federal role in surface transportation infrastructure funding to maintain and grow the nation's transportation system. Federal investments should be maximized by prioritizing state and local governments that generate their own funding. California passed a \$37 billion infrastructure package in 2006 in addition to local funding for projects that benefit the entire nation.

Speed-up Delivery Times for Major Transportation Projects • Make reducing project delivery time a key component of the 2009 transportation reauthorization. Eliminating redundancies in project studies and allowing states with stricter rules than federal environmental laws to expedite the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other processes is critical to lowering overall costs and improving project delivery time.

Stimulate Economic Growth • Use a second economic stimulus package to fund infrastructure investments. The federal government should provide funding by using stimulus money to fund shelf-ready transportation projects to immediately create jobs and fund projects.

Water

Fund Regional Programs and Studies that Enhance Local Water Supplies • Support the allocation of FY 09 Energy and Water Development appropriations to fund Reclamation's Title XVI program, especially urban water conservation projects. Call for the authorization tax credit bond financing for water recycling projects, desalination studies, demonstration projects and groundwater recovery programs. This is vital for large population centers around the nation that are facing water shortages.

Support Programs and Studies that Enhance the Reliability of Imported Supplies •

- ▶ **Bay Delta •** Support \$1 million in funding for the Corps of Engineers to complete a review of the emergency preparedness and response plan. Support \$1.5 million in funding for the ecological system restoration activities for FY 09 energy and water development appropriation.
- ▶ **Colorado River •** Support funding Title II for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum. Develop action plans to address the impacts of invasive species in our water supply systems and expedite the U.S. Department of Energy's clean-up of a 10.5 million ton pile of uranium tailings that is leaching toxins into the Colorado River.

Support Water/Energy Sustainability Programs and Initiatives • Support initiatives that address climate change impacts on investments in infrastructure, energy management and water supply development. New renewable and reliable energy resources to reduce or offset carbon emission impacts and minimize impacts to water supplies are needed.

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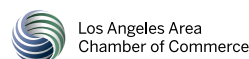
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