May 31, 2017

SB 268 as amended May 1, 2017 – OPPOSE

To: Members, California State Senate

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express opposition to your measure, Senate Bill 268, as amended May 1, 2017, which seeks to change the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors current governance structure.

The composition of the Metro Board was the result of a lengthy, local process in which all local stakeholders were brought together to develop a consensus. Cities within Los Angeles County are represented through their local Councils of Governments and each has a voice in Metro’s priority setting, planning and decision making for the over 10 million constituents of the County of Los Angeles. Metro has adopted and remained committed to a principle to support the current composition of the Board and its locally derived governance structure.

SB 268 represents yet another attempt to restructure the Metro Board of Directors without any significant discussion with local stakeholders. We remain concerned that as with last year’s attempts to mandate a Board structure from Sacramento rather than through a bottoms-up, consensus driven process, this bill would only perpetuate conflicts rather than seek compromise.

Los Angeles County voters recently approved Measure M by over 71 percent in the November 2016 election. This favorable outcome was a result of the Metro Board directing staff to outreach to all the Councils of Governments, elected officials, and other key stakeholders across Los Angeles County in the development of Measure M. This inclusive process gave voice to a broad and diverse group of stakeholders who have and will continue to play a vital role in shaping Metro’s Long Range Transportation Plan.

In conclusion, we are opposed to any restructuring of the Metro Board without a local consensus and thus opposed to SB 268. We respectfully oppose your measure and suggest that you reconsider your position on Metro’s board composition. If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Duboff, Vice-President of Public Policy at jduboff@lachamber.com or 213.580.7585.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO

Cc: Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors