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February 3, 2016

Honorable Marc Steinorth
Member, State Assembly
State Capitol Room 2111
Sacramento, CA.
95814

RE: AB 1569 (Steinorth) – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Steinorth,

The *Western States Trucking Association* is pleased to SUPPORT AB 1569 (Steinorth). With California's transportation infrastructure in dire need of maintenance and funding, AB 1569 will appropriately prioritize highway maintenance projects to ensure robust productivity as we rebuild California roads.

Limited in scope, AB 1569 will provide a reasonable CEQA exemption for projects to inspect, maintain, repair, or replace existing highways and roads. We were pleased to see the Governor propose this exact idea in his September 2015 transportation proposal. Facing a daunting cost of \$59 billion in identified transportation needs, the state cannot allow projects to stall as a result of bureaucratic delays or abusive litigation practices. This sensible exemption will ensure that roadway maintenance projects do not fall victim to legal abuse which could stall a project for years, suspending progress and increasing project costs.

The Legislature must pass policies to ensure transportation projects move forward efficiently once a funding source is established. AB 1569 strikes a much-needed policy balance to expedite road repairs while still maintaining attention to the environment, paving the way for California to rebuild its critical infrastructure. With the recent announcement by the California Transportation Commission reducing statewide funding on infrastructure by 38 percent, it is more important than ever that tax receipts are used wisely and not needlessly diverted by frivolous legal challenges to virtually every proposed project within the state.

For these reasons, the *Western States Trucking Association* supports AB 1569 (Steinorth) and respectfully requests your AYE vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Rajkovacz".

Joe Rajkovacz

Western States Trucking Association
Director of Governmental Affairs & Communications

Email: joe@westrk.org

ABOUT: The Western States Trucking Association is a 501(c) (6) nonprofit trade association incorporated in 1941 in the state of California. The WSTA's over 1,000 member companies and another 5,000+ affiliated member motor carriers engage in multiple modes of trucking operations from construction related to general freight operations. Our diversified group of member motor carriers operates in intrastate, interstate, and foreign commerce and operate every type and class of commercial motor vehicles, including dump trucks, concrete pumpers and mixers, water trucks, port and border dray trucks, heavy-haul trucks, and class 8 over-the-road tractors. The WSTA advocates on behalf of our owner-operator, fleet, and broker members for sensible legislation and regulations that affect their businesses.

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