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Golden Gate Bridge District Board Members
P.O. Box 9000, Presidio Station
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Hon. Bridge Board Members:

I write to ask you to vigorously oppose any resolution that would create a Marin Commuter Tax by passing off the cost of rebuilding Doyle Drive primarily on Marin and Sonoma commuters.

We must not take the bait when the Bush administration makes a fraction of the funding required to rebuild Doyle Drive contingent on passing a backwards Marin Commuter Tax. Together we are capable of finding an alternative to this administration's nationwide effort to create Texas and New Jersey-style toll roads in cities and counties across the nation.

Incredibly, some of our local officials have been fooled. Instead of standing up and fighting against it, these elected leaders are actually supporting the plan and standing against the people they represent. Governor Schwarzenegger, Senator Carole Migden and Assemblyman Mark Leno have all come out in support of this disastrous plan. I hope you will join me in calling on them to back down from sponsoring and passing any legislation to authorize the toll collection.

While I think we should rebuild Doyle Drive, this plan disproportionately penalizes Marin commuters and poses a significant risk of legal challenges. Rebuilding our State freeway infrastructure is historically a function of State and Federal funding. Don't make Marin the first community in the nation to have to pay to rebuild a state highway; an appendage to a national landmark. East Bay commuters haven't had to pay to rebuild the highway approach to the Bay Bridge; and Marin commuters shouldn't have to pay for the highway approach to the Golden Gate Bridge.

Additionally, the resolution currently contains a huge loophole by not requiring transportation officials to spend a portion of the tolls collected on ferry and bus routes. We must mandate an investment into clean alternatives to our morning commute. Instead, the Marin Commuter Tax will increase the burden on working families, and will continue us on the path of stressing our environmental resources.

Please join me by voting against this resolution, and join me in calling on Sen. Carole Migden and Asm. Mark Leno - whose districts contain Doyle Drive - to block any legislation authorizing the double tolls. I also sent a letter in December to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation calling on the Department to rescind the requirement that any federal funding be contingent on charging a second toll.

Thank you,

JOE ALIOTO VERONESE