The Honorable Richard Bloom  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0050  

RE: SB 268 (Mendoza) Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, AS AMENDED – SUPPORT  

Dear Assemblymember Bloom,  

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in SUPPORT of your SB 268 (Mendoza), as amended, which will expand the current composition of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board and provide better representation of the entire County of Los Angeles.  

Currently, the MTA serves more than 9.6 million people. Unfortunately, under the current distribution of the MTA Board members, there is unfair representation. Excluding the City of Los Angeles, the 87 cities in Los Angeles County represent 51% of the county’s total population; however, they only account for 31% of the MTA Board members. This distribution has resulted in an uneven allocation of resources and services.  

SB 268 (Mendoza), as amended, will realign and expand the MTA Board to provide proportional representation, improved access and accountability within the MTA. The bill will also help ensure that all areas of Los Angeles County are fairly represented during the allocation of local, state and federal funds in developing a regional transit plan that holistically represents and meets the needs of all Los Angeles county residents.  

Specifically, SB 268 (Mendoza), as amended, will expand the MTA Board from 14 to 16 members. Members from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will be reduced from five to two members. One supervisor will represent the largest population in the unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles. The bill will remove the appointment of two public members to the MTA Board by the Mayor of Los Angeles. It will require the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles to appoint five Councilmembers who represent the three groups of council districts.
Additionally, the representation of the other 87 cities within the County of Los Angeles will increase from four to seven members, or 43.8% of the MTA Board Members. This will better align the MTA Board representation with the population distribution in the County of Los Angeles and hopefully result in a more fair allocation of resources.

Furthermore, with two MTA sponsored projects affecting Beverly Hills, I am concerned that the current lack of local representation, and perspective of how these projects can impact our City residents and businesses, will be detrimental to the area. The perspective that local cities can add to the MTA Board is immeasurable.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills SUPPORTS SB 268 (Mendoza), as amended. Thank you for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc:   The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
      The Honorable Tony Mendoza, 32nd Senate District
      Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.