

Remarks for the Honorable Doris O. Matsui
Floor Consideration of FY11 CR – Amendment #442 (Denham)
Thursday, February 17, 2011

Mr. Speaker, I move to strike the last word.

I rise to express strong opposition to Amendment 442 and would urge my colleagues to vote against it.

This amendment would bar my state from receiving *any* funding for high speed rail.

I simply do not understand why California specifically should be denied this critical funding -- funding that will support the progress our state has already made in high speed rail investments.

This funding will help *all* Californians by providing thousands of good-paying jobs that will stay in California at a time when we so desperately need employment.

These are jobs for suppliers, restaurants, and small businesses that will grow along the route, and sorely-needed construction jobs to build the rails and trains.

These are jobs that will revitalize our communities.

High speed rail in California will also provide a cleaner future for generations to come by reducing carbon emissions, decongesting our streets and highways, and ultimately providing cheap, clean, reliable travel for Californians.

For these reasons, I urge a no vote on Amendment 442, offered by Mr. Denham.

I yield back the balance of my time.