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April 18, 2011

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
Chair, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 446 (Dutton)** – As Amended April 7, 2011 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 446, which is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee on May 3, 2011. This bill would transfer control of Ontario International Airport (ONT) from the City of Los Angeles to a regional airport authority.

The Inland Empire has taken a tremendous economic hit over the past three years as air service and passenger traffic at the ONT has plummeted to levels not seen since the 1980s. Under absentee ownership, the severe decline in activity has cost our region \$400 million annually and 8,000 jobs. SB 446 will help to return ONT to local control and restore the airport as the Inland Empire’s primary economic engine.

As amended, SB 446 would create the Ontario International Airport Authority (Authority) comprised of four directors from the City of Ontario and three directors from the County of San Bernardino. It also authorizes and encourages the authority to enter into an agreement with Los Angeles to facilitate the transfer of management and operational control of ONT from Los Angeles to the Authority. Moreover, the bill requires the Authority, in cooperation with Los Angeles and Ontario, to develop a transition plan to facilitate the transfer, and to develop effective surface transportation access to ONT.

The Authority created by SB 446 will promote airport regionalization by returning ONT to local control, which is proven to be conducive to development of successful regional airports as airport sponsors have a vested interest in the airport making the greatest contribution to its economy. Local control ensures that all of Southern California will have sufficient, sensibly priced airport capacity. The transfer of ONT to local control has been endorsed by the Southern California Association of Governments Regional Council as well as a list of local governments in the region that understand the importance of successful regional airports to their economies.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 446. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

**JOSIE GONZALES**  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Bob Dutton  
Members, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee  
Consultants, Senate Transportation and Housing Committee

*The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.*