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October 8, 2013

Tamera Leighton, Director
Del Norte Local Transportation Commission
1301-B Northcrest Drive, #16
Crescent City, CA 95531

Re: Hwy 101 Last Chance Grade

Dear Director Leighton:

This letter is being written to urge the Del Norte Local Transportation Commission to confer with all agencies and companies involved with the ease of egress to build a route around Last Chance Grade on Hwy 101 south of Crescent City.

It is only a matter of time before U.S. Hwy 101 at Last Chance Grade collapses and slides into the ocean. When this happens it will have a dire economic impact on Del Norte County. The tourism industry will take a huge hit as visitors traveling north will simply not journey any further on Hwy 101 but will use Hwy 299 to travel inland. Likewise, those traveling south from Oregon on Hwy 101 will use Hwy 197 and 199 to continue their trip. This will have a devastating impact on the City's general fund. Hotels generate transit occupancy tax (TOT) which is 25% of the City's general fund. This is the primary funding source for public safety services.

Del Norte County would be split in two isolating the town of Klamath from our City Offices and Courthouse. Likewise, students in Klamath would not be able to attend schools in Del Norte County. In addition, it would take 7 - 9 hours to drive from Crescent City to Klamath.

Millions of dollars are being spent by CalTrans on a band aid approach to fixing this problem. When the road collapses, CalTrans would then start to build a new road, most likely going through the area where a road could be started now. We cannot afford to wait the estimated 18-36 months for completion of a new road after the collapse. We should begin immediately and hope for completion before the inevitable disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard G. Enea".

Richard G. Enea
Mayor