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From: Terry Bursztynsky [<mailto:tbursztynsky@gmail.com>]

Sent: Saturday, May 14, 2016 5:07 PM

To: [CityCouncil@cityofconcord.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofconcord.org)

Subject: For Councilmember Tim Grayson

Dear Councilmember Grayson,

My name is Terry Bursztynsky. I have been a Concord resident for over 35 years. I am writing to you in your capacity of Delegate to the ABAG General Assembly.

The takeover of all or part of ABAG by the MTC would be an unnecessary loss to the entire region. A true merger into one new comprehensive planning organization would be a win-win for everyone except perhaps the Executive Director of MTC.

I retired 10 years ago after serving with ABAG for 30 years. We have conducted many useful projects which would not have occurred if there were only an MTC. I hope to mention a few of which you might not be aware. I joined ABAG during the preparation of the regional Environmental Management Plan. Working with MTC and the Air District, and under the leadership of Dianne Feinstein, we created a comprehensive plan which was one of the first in the country, and featured an aggressive public participation element.

We wrote a Manual of Standards for pollution control at construction sites which was used by the Regional Water Board and adopted by many cities in this region. The accompanying textbook was published by McGraw Hill. We trained hundreds of contractors and government staff through the ABAG Training Center.

With the aid of EPA grants, ABAG and the East Bay Park District designed and constructed a wetlands for pollution control at the Coyote Hills Shoreline Preserve. As part of the Environmental Plan we developed control measures for chemical spills. This led to a ten year annual conference and trade show (HAZMACON) with hundreds of exhibitors, scores of training classes and many thousands of attendees at the Oakland, Santa Clara and Long Beach convention centers and the Disneyland Hotel. This program produced significant funding in

assistance of ABAG's planning programs and overhead expenses, reducing pressures on member dues.

With aid of a Federal grant ABAG created the first COG website in the country. But more importantly, we helped create the first websites for each and all of the cities and counties in our region. Such a program would never have existed under the MTC. We also created training courses, classroom and the web, in hazardous materials incident response, taken by over 30,000 people from Bay Area companies and agencies, and throughout the United States. This program made our region safer to live and work in and also helped reduce pressures on member dues.

The much lauded Bay Trail took several years to accomplish by our planning department and our local governments and park districts. Again, something that would not have happened if there were only an MTC.

Others can tell you more about ABAG's service programs such as insurance and finance. My objective is to help you see how much creativity and innovation has come from a multi-purpose agency such as ABAG. Such would be needlessly lost if ABAG were to be folded into a single purpose transportation-only planning agency such as MTC.

Please support the merger consultant's Option 4, which would create a new agency with the mandates of both ABAG and MTC.

On a personal level, I am battling stage 4 pancreatic cancer and my wife is permanently wheelchair bound. If ABAG were to be subsumed into MTC, my pension, which is not yet fully funded, and my medical insurance would be at risk, because any remaining pieces of ABAG would not survive. At the age of 70, my wife and I could not start over again.

I am aware that you are now in an election. We support your candidacy and be assured we intend to vote for you. Best of luck with that.

Sincerely,

Terry Bursztynsky