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Hon. Mark DeSaulnier  
California State Senate  
Chair, Transportation and Housing Committee  
State Capitol Building Room 2209  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to Assembly Concurrent Resolution (“ACR”) 65

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

I am writing to express my opposition to Assembly Concurrent Resolution (“ACR”) 65, which would name the western span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge “The Willie L. Brown, Jr., Bridge” after former Assembly Speaker and former Mayor of San Francisco, Willie L. Brown, Jr. My opposition is based on multiple grounds, including:

1. Because Mr. Brown has no historical connection with that structure, there is no compelling reason to name that structure after him;
2. Joshua Abraham Norton, an historical figure from the Gold Rush era of California, who was otherwise known as “Emperor Norton I of The United States” and who first called for the construction of the bridge in March of 1872, is deserving of that honor by virtue of both his vision in calling for its construction as well as the unique and forward-thinking social policies he advocated for in his role as “Emperor”;
3. The passage of ACR 65 by the Assembly Transportation Committee, on a 12-1-3 vote, violated two of the five policies adopted by that Committee earlier this year in that 1) no author or co-author of ACR 65 was from the district in which the Bridge is located, and 2) the proposed designation does not reflect a community consensus; and
4. ACR 65 likewise violates three of this Committee’s policies on naming facilities (adopted on April 2, 2013) in that 1) the honoree is not deceased; 2) no author or co-author of ACR 65 is from the district in which the Bridge is located, and 3) the proposed designation does not reflect a community consensus.

For the above reasons I respectfully ask that you consider my opposition to ACR 65, should that matter be set for a hearing in this Committee.

Very truly yours,

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