

**Mayor**  
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**Redevelopment  
Division**

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## Staff Report

ITEM 5E

**To:** Lemoore City Council  
**From:** Judy Holwell, Redevelopment Project Manager  
**Date:** March 9, 2011  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for SB 325 – Short Haul Rail Authority

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### Discussion

Short-haul rail lines are being threatened due to the rails ability to eliminate them without consequence or notifying the public. In some areas service is being discontinued, lines are being abandoned or removed, and bankruptcies are causing lines to sit idle. In any case, businesses are left with no alternative other than trucking their products to and from their facilities.

As you know, the largest production company in Lemoore, Leprino Foods Company, relies on rail service, and the elimination of such service could pose a serious hardship for the company. In addition, rail service is a great business attraction tool. City staff is currently working on a couple of developments that may come to fruition in the Kings River Business and Industry Park, west of Leprino's operation. Both are relying on availability of rail service.

The attached letter has been prepared to offer our support to Senator Rubio for sponsoring Senate Bill 325 to create a Central California Rail Authority, which is intended to ensure continuation of short-line railroad operations in Kings, Kern, Fresno and Tulare counties. The Bill is attached for your convenience.

### Budget Impact

None.

### Recommendation

That Council voices their support for Senate Bill 325 – Short Haul Rail Authority Bill by signing the attached letter addressed to Senator Rubio, the author of the Bill.