



June 18, 2021

BART Board President Mark Foley
300 Lakeside Drive
Oakland, CA 94604

Re: Request for Midnight Service Wednesday – Saturday

Dear President Foley,

California is open and restaurants can operate at full capacity. Restaurants, however, are currently unable to fill their dining rooms because they cannot hire enough staff. The staffing challenges are rooted in the high cost of taking an Uber/Lyft/ or taxi into and out of San Francisco – particularly back to the East Bay late at night. The math just doesn't add up. Yet, our economy needs these restaurants. We need people dining out, staying at hotels, and bringing conventions back to reduce the region's 5.9% unemployment rate.

Restaurants suffered more than most industries during Covid-19. According to the National Restaurant Association, restaurant and food-service sales were \$240 billion below 2020 pre-pandemic forecasts and more than 110,000 eating and drinking establishments closed last year, either temporarily or for good.

The region can't afford another bad year and more restaurant closures. I request that you add additional BART service through midnight at least Wednesday through Saturday, with the hope that late night seven-day service can be restored as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration. Our economy depends on this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jim Wunderman'.

Jim Wunderman
President and CEO

Cc: Director Allen, Director Saltzman, Director Raburn, Director McPartland, Director Ames, Director Simon, Director Li, Director Dufty

Cc: Bob Powers, General Manager

Cc: Laurie Thomas, Executive Director, Golden Gate Restaurant Association