



MAYOR ROBERT GARCIA
CITY OF LONG BEACH

May 5, 2016

The Honorable Janet Nguyen
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3048
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 102 (Nguyen) – Joan Lind Van Blom Memorial Bridge

Dear Senator Nguyen:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I am pleased to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 102 (Nguyen). The Long Beach City Council voted on April 19, 2016 to support this resolution, which would designate a specified bridge on State Highway 1 in the City of Long Beach as the Joan Lind Van Blom Bridge.

Joan Lind Van Blom was the first woman to win an Olympic medal for the United States in rowing. She won a silver medal in the single sculls at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal and in the quadruple sculls at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Additionally, Joan Lind Van Blom had a 35-year career with the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) as a physical education teacher and curriculum leader. She motivated students to live healthy and active lives, and was instrumental in securing a million-dollar grant for rowing machines in each of LBUSD's nine high schools.

For her numerous achievements, Ms. Van Blom was inducted in the Wilson High School Hall of Fame, Long Beach State 49er Hall of Fame Century Club, National Rowing Hall of Fame and was declared a Lifetime Member of the Long Beach Rowing Association. Naming the bridge on State Highway Route 1 south of Loynes Drive and north of East 2nd Street, in Long Beach, as the Joan Lind Van Blom Memorial Bridge is a fitting way to commemorate her remarkable lifetime accomplishments and wholehearted commitment to community service.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach supports SCR 102.

Sincerely,

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Isadore Hall, III, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

