



DON HUFFINES
STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 16

May 19, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings
May 19, 2016
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Public Record

Re: Finance Docket No. 36025

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

I am writing to each of you today in order to express my resolute support for the construction of a high-speed rail line by Texas Central, a private company, based here in our state. As you begin to evaluate the recent petition filed by Texas Central, I ask that you consider the reasons why I and so many other Texans are encouraged by the prospect of high-speed rail between Dallas and Houston.

As Vice Chairman of the Texas Senate Transportation Committee, I know first-hand the unique and growing problems facing our state's infrastructure. Texas has earnestly tried to meet its mounting demand for transportation funding. In the last three years alone, the Legislature and voters worked together to deliver \$5 billion each year in additional funding solely for transportation. Despite increasing the budget by 150%, the Texas Department of Transportation still likely faces an estimated \$5 billion annual shortfall. Texas roads are already over-burdened and the promising economy of our state continues to draw more and more new residents, each of whom will depend on viable transportation solutions. I am proud to say that Texas now has the opportunity to secure a sustainable transit option between our two largest metropolitan areas, and that solution is being provided by the innovation of the free-market.

Texas Central is making an enormous commitment and investment in our state without asking for a single taxpayer dollar. The company has already invested time and resources on initial studies, they have raised more than \$100 million, and intend on spending \$10 billion during the course of the project. Their investment in Texas will benefit countless Texans for many generations.

Studies show that this innovative private sector investment will bring with it \$36 billion in anticipated economic activities over the next 25 years, and will lead to the creation of 40,000 jobs during the four-year peak construction period. The positive economic impact to our state

will be impressive, and it is completely contingent on embracing what will surely be the future of mobility in Texas.

I respectfully ask that you support Texas Central's filing in Finance Docket No. 36025. Thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Huffines". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Don Huffines
Texas State Senator
District 16