

KSA INDUSTRIES, INC.

**P.O. BOX 844
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001**

240842

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 31, 2016
Part of
Public Record

May 12, 2016

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

RE: F.D. No 36025, Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure, Inc. & Texas Central Railroad, LLC - Authority to Construct and Operate - Petition for Exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 10901 and Subtitle IV - Passenger Rail Line between Dallas, TX and Houston, TX

Dear Chairman Elliott and Board Members:

I am writing to file public comment in opposition to the proposed Texas Central Railroad project which would connect Dallas and Houston via high-speed passenger rail. I have been a resident of Waller for nearly thirty years and my company, KSA Industries, Inc., through one of its subsidiaries owns over 2,832 acres in the areas of Waller and Harris County that would be impacted by Texas Central High Speed Rail. In my opinion the proposed path of the rail would be an economic disaster for Waller County.

I do not support Texas Central's project for several reasons:

- 1) I strongly oppose federal financial guarantees that could lead to taxpayer losses should the project prove unsustainable. If Texas Central Railroad is economically feasible these guarantees should not be necessary.
- 2) I believe the project is not economically feasible or necessary in this particular corridor. Inexpensive commercial air travel is available from two major airports in both cities. Additionally, Interstate 45, which was recently expanded, services the corridor with few expected delays. More importantly Texas Central Railroad has failed to provide citizens that would be impacted any financial projections for their project. Finally, the proposed route does not even deliver passengers to the Central Business District of either city.
- 3) This project will affect the local environment and community access points. Many county and state roads will be closed off from other points within cities and communities. The few jobs created in construction could not, in my opinion, justify the lasting negative impact on the affected region.
- 4) The Petition for Clarification and Petition for Exemption filed by Texas Central are premature, not well-founded, and may even be violative of Texas law.

Texas Central is widely promoting that its project will be funded exclusively with private financing. Despite these claims and similar statements on its website, I note from several news

sources and quotes from CEO Tim Keith that Texas Central plans to seek government backed loans. Taxpayers should not have to accept the risk of this unnecessary, ill-advised project.

Furthermore, I believe jurisdiction and eminent domain matters should reside with and be determined by the State of Texas. I strongly urge the Board to deny the recent filings which seek to designate Texas Central's rail as a federal project and permit Texas Central to commence preliminary steps leading to eminent domain of private property.

Sincerely,

Amy A. Strunk
Amy Adams Strunk
Controlling Owner

KSA INDUSTRIES, INC.

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001**

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. FD 36025

I certify that I have this day served copies of the attached document upon all parties of record in this proceeding by U.S. Mail.

Signature Amy Adams Strunk Date 5/31/2016