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Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Chairman Elliott:

Recently the Surface Transportation Board (STB) received petitions from Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure Inc., and Texas Central Railroad LLC (collectively, Texas Central - Filing Nos. 240520 and 240521).

We are writing to convey our opposition to these filings because they will substantially harm our constituents and their property rights. The proposed high-speed rail line is wholly within the State of Texas, and to our knowledge has no direct connection with any other interstate rail facilities. The petitions also ask the STB to ignore federal law and previous precedents which, if granted, could violate both state and federal law.

As state legislators committed to representing our constituents and their interests, as well as the interests of the entire state, we have closely followed the development of this proposed high-speed rail line between Dallas and Houston. We are disappointed with Texas Central's lack of transparency and communication with property owners and stakeholders along the proposed route. Last year, several of us wrote to the Federal Railroad Administration expressing our belief that the federally required notification components of an environmental review were substantially flawed.

Texas Central's petitions ask the STB to waive federal laws requiring review of the public convenience and necessity of the proposed project. Our constituents have made very clear this privately owned and operated rail-line proposal is neither convenient, nor necessary.

Texas Central also asks for a ruling that would effectively allow eminent domain proceedings—the first phase of construction—to commence without a finding of public convenience and necessity. Texas Central's argument that condemnation of private property does not equate to a legally cognizable injury until physical possession is taken defies reason and undermines the most basic principles of private property rights. Even Texas Central concedes litigation is likely.

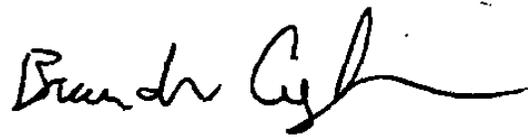
For all the reasons outlined above, we categorically oppose the fast-tracking of the condemnation of private property for a project wholly contained within our state's borders, and we respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to reject Texas Central's petitions.

(over)

Sincerely,



Senator Brian Birdwell, SD-22



Senator Brandon Creighton, SD-4



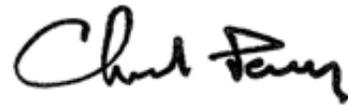
Senator Bob Hall, SD-2



Senator Lois Kolkhorst, SD-18



Senator Robert Nichols, SD-3



Senator Charles Perry, SD-28



Senator Charles Schwertner, SD-5



Representative Trent Ashby, HD-57



Representative Cecil Bell, Jr., HD-3



Representative Byron Cook, HD-8



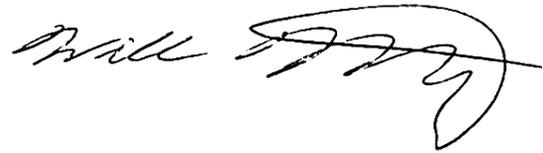
Representative Travis Clardy, HD-11



Representative Kyle Kacal, HD-12



Representative Mark Keough, HD-15



Representative Will Metcalf, HD-16



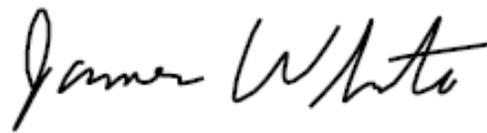
Representative John Otto, HD-18



Representative John Raney, HD-14



Representative Leighton Schubert, HD-13



Representative James White, HD-19



Representative John Wray, HD- 10

CC: The Honorable John Cornyn, United States Senator
The Honorable Ted Cruz, United States Senator
Members of Texas Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas