

May 27, 2016

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 27, 2016
Part of
Public Record

RE: Docket No. FD-36025

Subject: Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure Inc., Inc. & Texas Central Railroad, LLC – Petition for Exemption – Passenger Rail Line Between Dallas, TX and Houston

Request to REJECT the Petition for Exemption

Ben Franklin had a test where you list the "Pros" and "Cons" of an issue to make a decision. This HSR project has so many "Cons" which outweigh the "Pros" that they are too lengthy to list here.

After reading the many excellent comments against the project provided so far, we will not repeat what many have explained so eloquently. However we will concentrate the most important problem with this project that is very disturbing to us.

The issue that stands out as completely unacceptable, is that this group of private companies/citizens want to take property from other private citizens to set up a business and make a profit from it. That is it, period. And here in lies the slippery slope.

Somehow they feel they have more rights than the average property owner. They are wanting to use the eminent domain rule, (generally reserved for public entities), to force the taking of private property. This is done against the will of the property owners, if the owners choose not to sell their property to them.

They use some altruistic reason of providing fast transportation between two cities to serve what they have already projected as just 20% of those travelers in next ten years. Such a humanitarian goal.....

In addition to this, they are trying to expedite the process of land acquisition even though the route has not been vetted nor the funds secured for the construction. The time table presented to start construction in 2017 appears to be quite arbitrary.

In the documents they have submitted, they explain in simple legal terms how they will acquire the land they want if they cannot convince the owners to sell. It is obvious they do not have any respect for the rights of the property owner to have control and enjoyment of their own land.

Throughout the attempted progression of the HSR project, the steps they have taken and continue to take, have been brought to the attention of the property owners affected, not by letters of intent, or notifications in the communities, but by word of mouth, from person to person who happen to find out what is going on, usually at the last minute before a deadline.

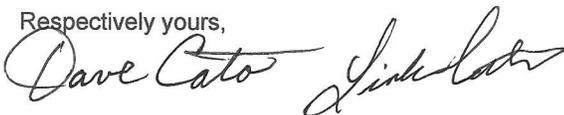
Impressions received from these actions, seem to indicate that if things move fast enough and far enough along, it will reach a point of no return where the project will just proceed. Something similar to the old adage, "Better to ask forgiveness than permission."

Due to the controversially nature of this project, it actually warrants more scrutiny and not less and their Petition of Exemption should be rejected.

Please reject their request for the "fast track" of property acquisition. Their reasons to expedite this project are not worth the violation of private property rights, which could set a precedence for future takeovers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectively yours,



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