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THOMAS F. MCFARLAND

March 10, 2015

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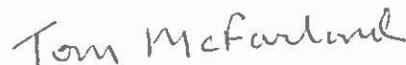
Ms. Cynthia T. Brown, Chief
Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Finance Docket No. 35874, *Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company -- Track Construction and Operation Exemption -- in Howard County, TX*

Dear Ms. Brown:

At the request of Ms. Kathryn Wiseman, Howard County Judge (Texas), I am hereby transmitting Judge Wiseman's Verified Statement in support of a Petition for Exemption filed by Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and Southern Switching Company in the above proceeding on February 25, 2015.

Very truly yours,



Thomas F. McFarland
*Attorney for Lone Star Railroad, Inc. and
Southern Switching Company*

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cc: Messrs. G. Cundiff
M. Cundiff
B. McClure

VERIFIED STATEMENT OF KATHRYN WISEMAN

My name is Kathryn Wiseman. I am Howard County Judge. Under Texas State law, a County Judge is the Chief Executive Officer of the County.

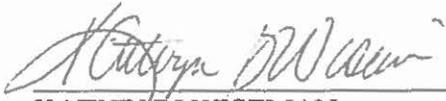
Howard County is located in West Texas between Midland to the west, Abilene to the east, Lubbock to the north, and San Angelo to the south. The County enjoys a superior east-west route in Interstate Highway I-20, and an excellent north-south route in U.S. Highway 87, which is part of the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor, a multi-lane divided highway that facilitates transportation of goods from Mexico through west Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, into Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

Howard County also benefits from the presence of a major east-west main line of Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP).

I am familiar with a proposal of Lone Star Railroad, Inc. (LSR) to develop a 626-acre Industrial Park a short distance east of Big Spring and north of I-20. LSR would construct railroad track into the Industrial Park from the point at which it would connect with UP's tracks. I have been advised that LSR requires authority from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for the proposed track construction.

Howard County supports that proposed track construction. The rail service resulting from that track construction would provide the County's shippers and receivers with a vital competitive alternative to motor carrier transportation via I-20 and U.S. Hwy. 87. For example, rail service at the Industrial Park will enable long haul transportation of numerous commodities

such as sand, grain, asphalt and pipe. The resulting increased business activity in the Big Spring area would provide expanded employment opportunities for resident in the region.


KATHRYN WISEMAN
Howard County Judge

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to
before me on this 9 day
of March, 2015.


Notary Public

My Commission expires: 9.9.2017

