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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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Dear Chairman Elliott, Vice Chairman Miller, and Board Member Begeman,

The Texas Central Railway project to connect Dallas and Houston via high-speed rail is a very important project, and I fully support it. High-speed rail is a proven, vital link in the transportation chain for several industrial nations. While several projects that would implement true high-speed rail in the US are in various states of evaluation or construction, the Texas Central project stands to provide several benefits to the state of Texas. These benefits include, in addition to the stated one of connecting the two largest metropolitan areas within the state:

- Creation of thousands of jobs, both in construction and on-going operations
- Reduction in the number of the vehicles on the highway between the two cities, which will reduce traffic fatalities, congestion, and air pollution
- Financial benefits to the counties and towns surrounding the railroad right-of-way due to property tax collections (Texas Central is a private concern, so it will have to pay these taxes)

The proposed service will provide quick, convenient passenger service with ample public and private transportation options at both ends of the line. From a fiscal perspective, the fact that a private company is behind this project means that state and local government funds are not put at risk to build this project out. Texas is known across the nation as being friendly to business, and here is a business, Texas Central, that is daring to dream big! I strongly feel that we must support this endeavor.

This project should be supported, and treated as an integral part of the rail network within Texas and potentially of significance to the surrounding states. I encourage you to give a this project a review with these thoughts in mind.

Regards,

David Pedigo
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Cc: Parties of Record

Docket Number: FD_36025_0

Case Title: TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE INC., INC. & TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD, LLC-PETITION FOR EXEMPTION-PASSENGER RAIL LINE BETWEEN DALLAS, TX AND HOUSTON, TX

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