

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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May 18, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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RE: Finance Docket No. 36025

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

We are writing to express our strong support for the proposed high-speed rail project that would connect Texas' two major population centers, North Texas and Houston.

A private, Texas-based company, Texas Central has already invested millions of dollars towards bringing a high-speed rail option to our part of the country. Texas continues to experience rapid population growth and additional resources will be required to meet the infrastructure needs of our growing state. With more than 80,000 lane miles under state control, the ongoing maintenance liabilities for these roads combined with the strong need and demand for additional facilities, taxpayer-provided transportation resources are in high demand and must be used judiciously. Since the high-speed train project is privately-developed and would not draw from these scarce state resources, we support its development as an important part of our state's multimodal transportation network. And because this system would connect two large and growing metro areas that are not currently served by passenger rail, this high-speed train project is of great significance to Texas and also to the interstate passenger rail network.

It is our hope that the STB's involvement in this project will foster ingenuity and private sector involvement in the transportation sector, but also protect the interests of the State of Texas, taxpayers, and the traveling public.

We encourage your thorough and timely consideration of the Texas Central petition so that Texas and the nation can move forward with this important project.

Sincerely,


Eddie Bernice Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS


Gene Green
MEMBER OF CONGRESS