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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4327

May 18, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Elliott,

I am writing in regards to a 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. With the population of Texas growing rapidly and highway congestion getting worse every day, rail, of all types, is becoming an attractive option for both passengers and freight. The United States lags way behind many other countries on utilizing rail. In fact, there are no true high speed rail operations in the U.S. The closest thing we have is Amtrak's government subsidized Acela Express, with an average speed of around 85mph, and a maximum speed of 150mph. Worldwide speeds of 180mph are common.

As a transportation advocate, I'm intrigued by the possibilities of this rail link between Texas' two largest metropolitan areas. There are, however, significant obstacles the rail line must overcome, not the least of which is obtaining right-of-way. Texas has a long history of respecting private property rights. It is my hope the line can be built without the railroad having to resort to using eminent domain to acquire reluctant landowner's permission to build across their property.

With the STB's involvement, this project will not only foster innovation and private sector investment in the transportation sector, but also protect the interests of the State of Texas, taxpayers and the traveling public.

Sincerely,



BLAKE FARENTHOLD
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

OVERSIGHT AND
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JUDICIARY

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