

Joe McHugh  
Vice President, Government Affairs &  
Corporate Communications



June 20, 2016

240937

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

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
June 20, 2016  
Part of  
Public Record

Re: *Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure, Inc. & Texas Central R.R., LLC - Authority to Construct and Operate-Petition for Exemption from 49 USC § 10901 and Subtitle IV Passenger Rail Line between Dallas, TX and Houston, TX, STB Fin. Docket No. 36025.*

Dear Chairman Elliot, Vice Chairman Miller and Member Begeman:

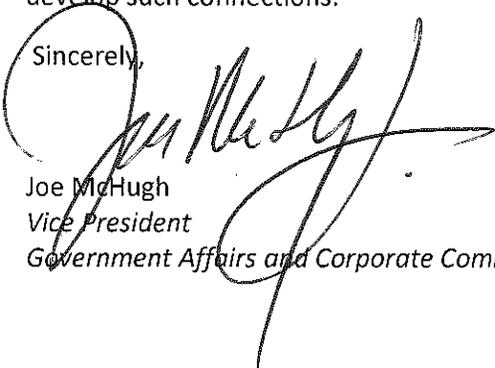
The National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("Amtrak") submits this letter in response to the Petition for Exemption ("Petition") filed by Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure, Inc. and Texas Central Railroad, LLC ("Texas Central") in the docket referenced above.

Amtrak is the operator of the nation's intercity passenger rail service. We provide service over more than 21,000 route miles in 46 states and the District of Columbia, operating over 300 trains each day that serve more than 500 destinations. Dallas, served by our Chicago-San Antonio/Los Angeles *Texas Eagle*, and Houston, served by our New Orleans-Los Angeles *Sunset Limited*, are among the cities our trains serve, although we have not operated direct service between Dallas and Houston since 1995.

Amtrak supports the development of high-speed rail service throughout the United States as part of a national passenger rail system capable of meeting the nation's transportation needs. Enhancing connectivity between our trains, and with other transportation services that serve routes or destinations we do not directly serve, is one of our most important objectives.

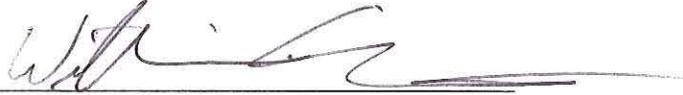
The proposed Texas Central line could provide connections for Amtrak's national long distance network in both Dallas and Houston. Texas Central's Petition expresses interest in facilitating connections between Amtrak and Texas Central trains in both cities. Amtrak is open to exploring opportunities to develop such connections.

Sincerely,

  
Joe McHugh  
Vice President  
Government Affairs and Corporate Communications

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the Response to the Petition for Exemption were sent on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2016, to be served on all parties of record by first class mail, postage prepaid, or by electronic mail.



William H. Herrmann  
VP & Managing Deputy General Counsel  
National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("Amtrak")