



## **SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT 6

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May 19, 2016

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

Re: Finance Docket No. 36025

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

As a member of the Texas Senate Committee on Transportation and the Houston-area delegation, I am writing to express my 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. As Texas continues to experience rapid population growth, we in the state Legislature are tasked with helping to ensure that sufficient resources are available 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, state transportation resources are in high demand. 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 my 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.

MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE  
5425 POLK ST., SUITE 125  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77023  
(713) 923-7575  
FAX: (713) 923-7676

CAPITOL OFFICE  
3E.12 • P.O. Box 126068  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
(512) 463-0106  
FAX: (512) 463-0346

EAST HARRIS COUNTY  
13301 EAST FREEWAY., SUITE 304  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77015  
(713) 453-5100

[sylvia.garcia@senate.state.tx.us](mailto:sylvia.garcia@senate.state.tx.us)

I encourage you to confirm jurisdiction over this project as part of the interstate rail network and move to expedite your review of the Texas Central petition so Texas and the nation can move forward.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Sylvia R. Garcia