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May 18, 2016

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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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 18, 2016
Part of
Public Record

Re: Finance Docket No. 36025

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

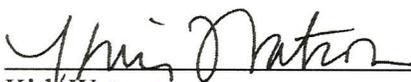
I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed high-speed rail project that would connect Texas' two major population centers, North Texas and Houston.

Texas Central, a private, Texas-based company, has already invested millions of dollars toward 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 must explore every viable opportunity to expand our multimodal transportation system. Privately-developed, high-speed rail is an important part of this system. And, because this project 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 development while also protecting the interests of the State of Texas, taxpayers, and the traveling public.

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,


Kirk Watson