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The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Honorable Begeman,

On behalf of our 230 construction company members and chamber partners, TEXO ABC / AGC is writing in strong support of the Texas Central High-Speed Rail project. As you know, this privately funded project has made significant progress acquiring right of way, engaging local communities and property owners, and making a strong case to Texas citizens and community and business leaders.

Texas has an unparalleled record of attracting private investment, private employers and private sector jobs. We welcome risk-takers and entrepreneurs willing to invest their capital in the Lone Star State. Most Texans welcome the private investment from Texas Central Rail. Texas Central is expected to create more than 17,000 jobs during construction and a multi-billion-dollar economic impact for the Texas and US economy. By virtue of the project and Texas' economic demographics, many of those benefitting from project development dollars will be small, minority and veteran owned businesses.

Additionally, Texas needs economic stimulus to help our neighbors and communities quickly recover from the COVID-19 and ongoing energy crises. Public and private sector infrastructure projects are key to reinvigorating the Texas economy while benefitting mobility, public safety and job creation. The Texas business community and most Texans remain firmly committed to Texas Central, and their willingness to invest private dollars in Texas transportation infrastructure. That private investment is even more important as our state and national economies recover from the current crisis.

We appreciate U.S. Surface Transportation Board's continued support for the Texas Central High-Speed Rail project. We hope you agree and will keep the federal approval processes moving forward at high speed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Meloni Raney", written over a horizontal line.

Meloni Raney, AIA
President / CEO

TEXO is a joint chapter of Associated General Contractors and Associated Builders and Contractors and the only joint chapter in the country. We serve over 230 construction company members in the Dallas / Fort Worth region and are one of the largest chapters in the country for both associations.

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