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HUGH D. SHINE

DISTRICT 55
BELL COUNTY

April 20, 2020

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

Re: Texas Central High-Speed Rail project.

Dear Chairman Begeman:

I am reaching out to you during this unprecedented time to communicate my strong support for the Texas Central High-Speed Rail project. Texas has the opportunity to lead the nation in Transportation Commerce with this project.

To echo recent comments made by the Texas Central CEO, Carlos Aguilar, Texas Central is the kind of project that "our state needs now more than ever. In addition to providing a new, safe and efficient transportation option, this project has the ability to help jumpstart the Texas economy."

Keeping this project on track is critical to Texas and our nation. Texas Central will create more than 17,000 jobs during construction and generate a multi-billion-dollar economic impact across the U.S. via contracts for U.S. industries. This critical infrastructure project will also support small businesses owned and operated by minorities, women and veterans.

Here are just a few numbers illustrating the impact Texas Central will have on our economy once underway:

- Create 17,000 jobs, 6,500 of which will be within months of "Notice to Proceed", with nearly \$4 billion in payroll spend
- Pour \$4 billion into the U.S. economy with contracts for concrete, steel, rebar, electrical cables and other materials
- Spend \$1.5 billion on construction equipment and general operating costs



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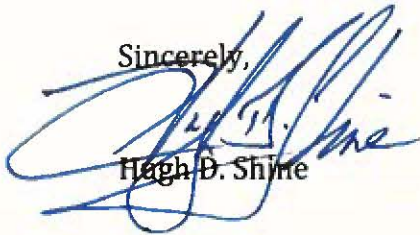
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As you know, job creation and major investment into infrastructure projects are keys to activating our economy post COVID-19. Texas Central has the ability to launch quickly and make an immediate positive impact in providing jobs and growth.

I trust the Texas Central team of top experts and industry-leading partners to initiate, execute and complete this project in a manner that will make Texas and our nation proud.

I am firmly committed to Texas Central. **The Texas Legislature as a body has supported this project for the past two sessions**, and today we feel an even greater urgency to move this project forward expeditiously as we begin to plan post COVID-19. I hope you will agree, and that you will keep the project moving forward by affirming the Board's jurisdiction over it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hugh D. Shine", is written over the printed name.

Hugh D. Shine