

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

FD 36025

June 6, 2018

245922

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
June 12, 2018
Part of
Public Record

Dear Chairman Begeman:

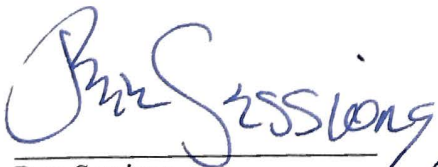
We write today to express our strong support for the Texas Central proposal to bring state-of-the-art high-speed rail to connect Houston and Dallas. We have indicated our support for this Project to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and to US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary Chao, and have encouraged both to move expeditiously to process the regulations needed for the Project to move forward.

Texas Central and Amtrak recently announced that they had agreed to terms on a joint ticketing agreement. As the Board suggested in its 2016 opinion, such an agreement demonstrates connectivity to the interstate rail network and triggers Surface Transportation Board jurisdiction. We understand that Texas Central is now petitioning the Surface Transportation Board to assert its jurisdiction and reopen proceedings regarding authority over that project.

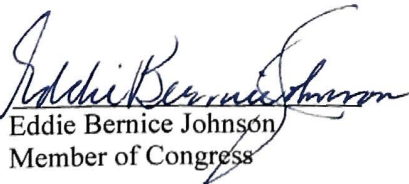
Texas Central is a private entity, thus schedule and regulatory certainty are critical. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project was begun in 2014, and a Draft EIS was published last year. In keeping with Congressional and Administration priorities to advance infrastructure projects of regional and national significance, we stand ready to support, as consistent with applicable statute and regulation, the Surface Transportation Board's participation in the ongoing EIS process, so that it may continue its progress toward a timely completion.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can answer any questions related to our support for this important project to the State of Texas.

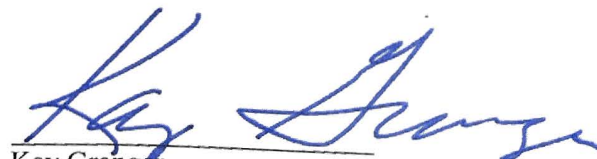
Sincerely,



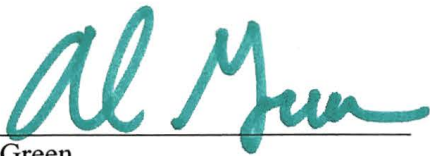
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress



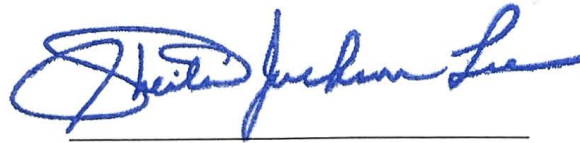
Al Green
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress



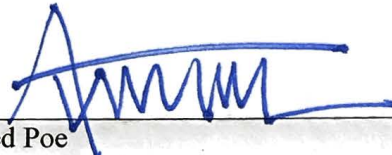
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Gene Green
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress