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Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Bill Shuster
Chairman

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The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Chairman Begeman:

We write today to express our strong support for the Texas Central proposal to bring high-speed rail to connect Houston and Dallas. Generally, we encourage innovative approaches to meet our nation's transportation infrastructure challenges, and we support projects like this one that encourage significant private sector investment in transportation.

Texas Central's proposal will have a substantial and long-lasting positive impact on the state and national economy. Spurred by Texas Central's direct investment of \$10 billion, the total economic impact of construction and operation from 2015 to 2040 is expected to be more than \$36 billion. This type of private investment will result in increased economic development, help create jobs, and infuse substantial tax revenue into the federal, state, and local communities.

We understand that Texas Central is now petitioning the Surface Transportation Board to assert its jurisdiction and reopen proceedings regarding authority over that project. Relevant to that analysis, it has also come to our attention that Texas Central and Amtrak recently announced they had agreed to terms on a joint ticketing agreement. We urge your full, fair, and timely consideration in this matter.

In addition, as a private project, schedule and regulatory certainty are critical. Therefore, to the extent appropriate given your review of the project, we would urge the Board to participate in the ongoing environmental review process of the project. Such action will ensure that the review process may continue toward fulsome and timely completion, while not delaying the project with consecutive regulatory reviews.

Again, we support the substantial transportation and economic benefits this project will bring to the state of Texas and the country, and urge your full, fair, and timely resolution of these matters. Thank you in advance for attention to this issue. Please contact Dennis Wirtz, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, at (202) 226-0727, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



Jeff Denham
Chairman
Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines,
and Hazardous Materials