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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.

306891

July 27, 2023

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July 27, 2023
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The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

**RE: DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC Petitions for Exemption from 49 USC§ 10901 –
Finance Docket No. 35544 and Finance Docket No. 36488.**

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I write to strongly urge the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to expeditiously give consideration to the petitions filed by DesertXpress Enterprises, LLC's dba Brightline West in Docket No. FD 35544 and Docket No. FD 36488 which are necessary in order to begin construction of a high-speed passenger rail system between Las Vegas, Nevada, and Rancho Cucamonga, California.

As you may know, earlier this month, the Federal Railroad Administration concluded its final environmental review for the Brightline West system and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Accordingly, the next step in the process for construction to begin on the project is consideration from the STB on the filed petitions for exemption.

Currently, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is considering an application from the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail grant opportunity. This program, established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), will provide historic funding for unleashing the potential of high-speed rail in the United States. Brightline believes that the project will be the domestic standard-bearer for this program, and will serve as an example for cities across the country that are seeking to leverage this quick and sustainable mode of transportation.

The urgency of this request comes at a time when a long-term solution is needed to address the highly trafficked I-15 corridor between Nevada and California, a route that is critical for the movement of goods and people. Additionally, Brightline West is estimated to generate more than \$10 billion in economic activity and \$1 billion in tax revenue. It will create more than 35,000

construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs; agreements are in place that guarantee the creation of good-paying union jobs.

The proposed high-speed rail project has the potential to significantly increase visitors to California and Nevada, boosting travel and tourism across the region. Additionally, the system will reduce highway congestion by diverting millions of automobiles from I-15 to a faster, more efficient, zero-emission transportation option. Estimates show that over 700 million vehicle miles traveled will be removed annually from the highway which will eliminate more than 400,000 tons of CO2 emissions from the atmosphere.

Since the STB is the federal regulatory agency tasked with granting authority to construct and operate interstate railroads, obtaining final approvals is essential to support the Brightline West project's financing activities and an eventual 2023 groundbreaking. Accordingly, I strongly urge your consideration for prioritizing decisions on the related petitions for exemption associated with the project.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mitch Moonier at (202) 225-5965 at your convenience. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dina Titus", with a stylized, cursive script.

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Karen J. Hedlund, Vice Chairman
 The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
 The Honorable Michelle A. Schultz
 The Honorable Robert E. Primus