



DON HUFFINES
STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 16

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June 1, 2018
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May 31, 2018

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

Re: Docket No. FD_36025_0

Dear Chairman and Surface Transportation Board Members:

I am writing to you in regards to the Petition to Reopen filed by Texas Central on May 5, 2018. The construction of a high-speed rail line between north Texas and Houston is an innovative, taxpayer-friendly solution to the growing demand for transportation infrastructure in the State of Texas. Tying together two of the largest metro areas that consistently rank among the nation's top economic growth leaders with a privately-developed high-speed train corridor will provide limitless opportunities for the Texas economy. The agreements currently in place between Texas Central and Amtrak further enhance the value of this system to Texas by filling a significant gap in the national network – direct service between Dallas and Houston.

Importantly for Texans, these agreements allow this new connectivity to be provided by an investor-owned Bullet Train system that will not require federal grants for construction or ongoing state subsidies for operation. Texans value effective, common sense regulation applied by a limited government. It is important, then, that the same regulatory framework, including that of the Surface Transportation Board, governing freight and passenger railroads in Texas likewise govern the Bullet Train. Reducing regulatory ambiguity and uncertainty during the planning process helps shorten project schedules, reduce project costs and can help remove potential barriers to entry for potential investors elsewhere in our state.

My constituents demand transportation infrastructure solutions, and the Bullet Train is just the kind of entrepreneur-led solution that helps to address the challenges of a growing state. I appreciate your attention to this matter and to the consideration of the positive implications that a common, uniform, regulatory approach can have on private sector interest in our state. By working together, everything is possible, and Texas' greatest days are yet to dawn. When we fully embrace capitalism and economic liberty, our future is limitless.

In Liberty,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Huffines", written in a cursive style.

Don Huffines

I hereby certify that I caused this letter to be served on all parties of record.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Huffines", written over a horizontal line.

Date: June 1, 2018

Sen. Don Huffines