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May 22, 2020

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

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Vice Chairman
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

The Honorable Patrick J. Fuchs
Member
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
395 E St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Begeman, Vice Chairman Oberman, and Member Fuchs,

We are reaching out to you during this unprecedented time to communicate our strong support for the Texas Central High-Speed Rail 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

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.

And we 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.

We remain 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. We hope you will agree, and that you will keep the project moving forward by affirming the Board's jurisdiction over it.

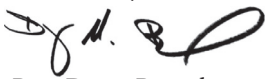
Sincerely,



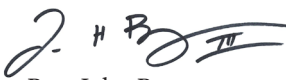
Sen. Carol Alvarado



Senator Royce West



Rep. Diego Bernal



Rep. John Bucy



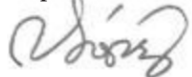
Rep. Nicole Collier



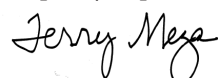
Rep. Charlie Geren



Rep. Ana Hernandez



Rep. Ray Lopez



Rep. Terry Meza



Rep. Jim Murphy



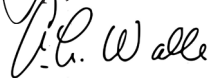
Rep. Tan Parker



Rep. Toni Rose



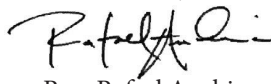
Rep. James Talarico



Rep. Armando Walle



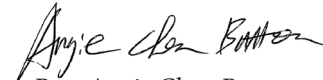
Sen. Nathan Johnson



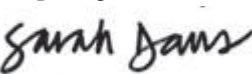
Rep. Rafael Anchia



Rep. Lorraine Birabil



Rep. Angie Chen Button



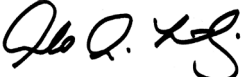
Rep. Sarah Davis



Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins



Rep. Celia Israel



Rep. Armando Martinez



Rep. Ina Minjarez



Rep. Victoria Neave



Rep. Mary Ann Perez



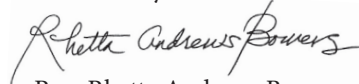
Rep. Carl Sherman



Rep. Chris Turner



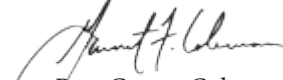
Sen. Beverly Powell



Rep. Rhett Andrews Bowers



Rep. Cesar Blanco



Rep. Garnet Coleman



Rep. Anna Eastman



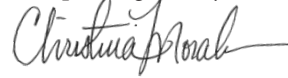
Rep. Roland Gutierrez



Rep. Julie Johnson



Rep. Morgan Meyer



Rep. Christina Morales



Rep. Leo Pacheco



Rep. Ramon Romero



Rep. Hugh Shine



Rep. John Turner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on May 29, 2020, I caused copies of this document to be served on all parties of record in this proceeding, by electronic mail or by first-class mail.



Jennifer Hu