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May 26, 2016

RE: Endorsement of Texas Central's High-Speed Rail Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, an organization comprised of more than 600 Northwest Houston-area members, we endorse Texas Central's high-speed rail project connecting Houston and North Texas.

The business community is increasingly seeing the need for a transportation solution of this magnitude between the two economic hubs. Estimates show that the population in this corridor will double by 2035 and that automobile travel time between the two regions will increase to over 6.5 hours. This highspeed train will travel between Houston and North Texas in less than 90 minutes and will help alleviate congestion and accidents on I-45.

Among the many reasons we support this project:

- This project is being developed by a Texan-led, Texas-based private company employing a market-led approach, providing another way to move citizens across our state without accessing limited transportation funding.
- It is projected to generate a direct impact of \$36 billion to the Texas economy over the next 25 years.
- Taxing entities along the proposed route will receive an estimated \$2.5 billion in property taxes over 25 years from Texas Central because of the new infrastructure, including two passenger stations and a midway stop in Grimes County.
- This project will create 40,000 jobs over the four-year peak construction period, plus 1,000 permanent highly skilled jobs to support the railroad's operations when it is in full service.
- The technology being deployed is the world's safest high-speed rail technology - the N700-I total bullet system, which boasts a flawless 50-year safety history in Japan.

We are excited to support the first true high-speed passenger rail system in the United States – a transportation infrastructure project of national importance that will provide a safe, reliable and convenient travel alternative between Houston and North Texas.

Sincerely.

Mark McShaffry, Chairman of the Board President