

September 12, 2016

Mr. Tim Keith, President
Texas Central Partners, LLC
1409 South Lamar Street, Suite 1022
Dallas, Texas 75215

RE: Endorsement of High-Speed Rail Project Connecting North Texas and Houston

Dear Mr. Keith,

The Across the Track PAC is pleased to endorse the proposed high-speed train project that will connect Houston and North Texas. The Across the Track PAC is a non-partisan political action committee comprised of African-American entrepreneurs. The group works to promote greater participation in the political process from small and minority businesses.

By endorsing the High Speed Train project, the Across the Track the PAC hopes to encourage the inclusion of small and African American business enterprises in the procurement of services and contracting opportunities. Together, with forward-looking companies like Texas Central, the developers of the landmark high-speed train project, we can help the citizens of Houston and across the state.

The Across the Track PAC is supporting this project because it is projected to create 40,000 jobs during construction and 1,000 permanent jobs, and generate a direct impact of \$36 billion to the Texas economy and \$2.5 billion in property and sales taxes over the next 25 years. This resulting economic development will be of great help to the citizens of Texas.

The need for a transportation solution of this magnitude between the two economic hubs of Houston and Dallas is an obvious concern for both communities. Estimates show the automobile travel time between the two economic powerhouses will increase to over 6.5 hours in the next 20 years. This train can help complement the state's existing transportation network without using limited transportation funding.

We are proud to support the nation's first true high-speed passenger rail system – a transportation infrastructure project that will grow the entire state economy, and provide a safe, reliable and productive travel alternative between Houston and North Texas.

Sincerely,



**Thomas Jones, Member
McConnell & Jones LLP**