

March 22, 2017

Mr. Michael J. Moore
Regional Vice President, External Affairs
Texas Central Partners, LLC

Dear Mr. Moore:

Thank you for sharing the information on the Texas high-speed rail project being proposed between Houston and Dallas.

As a local chapter of the Texas Restaurant Association, the Greater Houston Restaurant Association is committed to the long-term health of the industry, and is supported by restaurateurs, suppliers and other segments of the diverse hospitality industry. Our chapter strives to promote growth of the restaurant industry by providing educational and training programs; public awareness campaigns; and grass-roots networking and government affairs initiatives to help members increase sales, reduce expenses and improve profitability.

Our members recognize that a strong transportation system is fundamental to the region's quality of life and economic vitality, attracting new businesses and generating new jobs. Strong economic growth and increased populations are projected in the Houston and North Texas regions over the next 20 years, and it is more important than ever to better connect their business, tourism, restaurant and hospitality assets.

Travel time between the Houston region and North Texas is expected to increase from 4 to 6.5 hours by the year 2035, and high-speed passenger rail will provide an efficient and cost-effective mode of transportation, traveling between the two regions in 90 minutes.

Increasing access to the Houston market is particularly important as the Houston restaurant and hospitality industries continue to garner national attention as some of the best in the country, including Houston being covered by the Washington Post as one of America's best food cities in the United States.

The Greater Houston Restaurant Association endorses the Texas high-speed rail as a safe and reliable transportation alternative that we expect will increase the state's economic growth; better connect the Houston region and North Texas; and increase access to Houston's restaurant and hospitality industries.

Sincerely,



Melissa M. Stewart
Executive Director
Greater Houston Restaurant Association



Jonathan Horowitz
Board President
Greater Houston Restaurant Association