



**Houston Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce**

April 17, 2017

Carlos Aguilar
Chief Executive Officer
Texas Central Partners, LLC
1001 Fannin, Suite 4500
Houston, TX 77002

Chairman
Douglas Hidalgo

Chair-Elect
Juanita Romans

Immediate Past Chair
Armando Perez

Parliamentarian
Tony Canales

Treasurer
Alex Obregon

Directors
Deavra Daughtry
David Feldman
Joel Garza
Francisco González
Dr. Yamile Jackson
David Loving
Ron Mayorga
David Milich
Mark Montgomery
Hector Pineda
Ivan Rodriguez Zerrate
John Tipton
David Titus

President & CEO
Dr. Laura G. Murillo

Dear Mr. Aguilar,

RE: Endorsement of High-Speed Train Project Connecting North Texas and Houston with one stop in the Brazos Valley

On behalf of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the leading advocate for Hispanic business and civic interests in the Greater Houston area, I am pleased to announce the chamber's endorsement of the proposed high-speed train project connecting North Texas to Houston in less than 90 minutes, with one stop in the Brazos Valley.

With Texas' population continuing to grow, travel between the two economic hubs of the state is only going to get worse, and existing plus committed infrastructure for highways is inadequate to address the increased interaction between the regions. In fact, current estimates show that travel time between the two economic powerhouses will increase to over 6.5 hours in the next 20 years. The Texas Bullet Train can help complement the state's existing transportation network and help prepare Texas for generations of future growth.

We support this project because:

- It is being developed by a Texan-led, Texas-based company employing a market-led approach to mass infrastructure projects;
- 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 would receive an estimated \$2.5 billion in property and sales taxes over 25 years;
- New infrastructure in Texas would include passenger stations in Houston, Dallas, and the Brazos Valley;
- The project will create 10,000 jobs per year 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;
- 90% of the 16 million people living in the service areas would save at least 1 hour on journey times between the cities as compared to air or road travel;
- 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.

The Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions or gifts to the HHCC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes. However, a portion of your payment to the HHCC may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. Please consult your own tax advisor with respect to your eligibility to take such deductions.

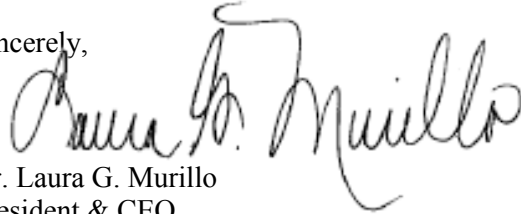
houstonhispanicchamber.com

1801 Main Street, Suite 890
Houston, TX 77002

(713) 644-7070

We are proud to support this innovative project, which will provide a safe, reliable, and productive travel alternative between Houston, the Brazos Valley, and North Texas. This project is good for Texas.

Sincerely,



Dr. Laura G. Murillo
President & CEO
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

cc: Douglas Hidalgo, Chairman

