

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Thank you for your dedicated service at the Department of Transportation (DOT) and your strong leadership during the COVID-19 crisis. Our transportation infrastructure ensures that our nation's hospitals have the medical supplies they need and that our grocery stores remain stocked, and under your guidance, the DOT has played a key role in supporting the United States' coordinated response to this public health crisis.

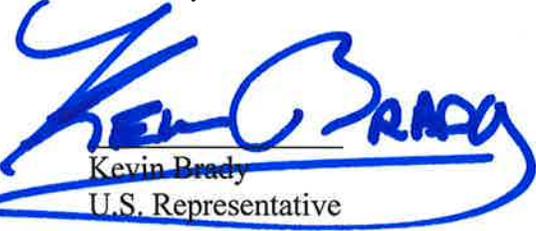
We are writing today in regard to Texas Central Railroad's (TCR) proposed high speed rail between Dallas-and-Houston. The past few weeks, as the nation has responded to COVID-19, TCR has laid off 28 employees, experienced investor flight, and the reality of their financial situation has become shockingly clear. This project, which has never been financially sound, has become financially impossible. Given the demands on the DOT and the economic priorities of America as it recovers from the COVID-19 crisis, we respectfully urge you to suspend the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) regulatory and environmental review of this proposed high-speed rail.

If the FRA continues to move forward with their regulatory review, they will be using crucial taxpayer resources that should be wholly focused on solving our current public health crisis. Given the concrete reality that TCR's project now has zero chance of ever materializing, no more *federal* taxpayer resources should be wasted on this controversial, Texas specific project.

Thanks to your leadership on the historic CARES emergency aid bill, you understand first-hand the seriousness of the crisis we are currently facing. Our taxpayer dollars should be fully focused on defeating this invisible enemy, and not on a private company's Texas based project whose cost has nearly doubled to \$20 billion. Additionally, the company continues to face insurmountable hurdles before they can even begin construction on this project—including lack of financial feasibility, lack of eminent domain authority, failure to gain approvals from the Surface Transportation Board (STB), potential safety and flooding issues, and uniform opposition from local and state officials. Failure to cease the FRA's review would result in a misuse of taxpayer resources.

Thank you again for your leadership at the DOT. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us, or Congressman Brady's Legislative Assistant, Preston Howey, at Preston.Howey@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-4901.

Sincerely,



Kevin Brady
U.S. Representative



Ron Wright
U.S. Representative