

January 11, 2016

The Honorable Kenichiro Sasae, Japanese Ambassador to the United States of America
Embassy of Japan in the United States of America
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

RE: Texas Central Railway Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail

CC: The Honorable John Kerry, US Secretary of State
The Honorable Caroline Kennedy, US Ambassador to Japan
The Honorable Ted Cruz, US Senator of Texas
The Honorable John Cornyn, US Senator of Texas
Ms. Sarah Feinberg, Federal Railroad Administration Acting Administrator
The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas
The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lt. Governor of Texas
The Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
Mr. Tadashi Maeda, Senior Managing Director, Representative Director, and Global Head of
Infrastructure Investment, Japan Bank of International Cooperation
Mr. Takuma Hatano, President & CEO, Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for
Transport & Urban Development

Dear Ambassador Sasae,

The thirty-three signatories to this letter, including Texas legislators, county judges, precinct commissioners, and regional planning commission presidents, write to express our deep opposition to the Texas Central Railway High-Speed Rail Project ("HSR Project"). While we respect your country's ambitious goal of exporting the Shinkansen technology, as residents and leaders in East Texas, we remain opposed to the HSR Project because it will cause irreparable harm to our communities.

As you are probably aware, during the recently concluded Texas legislative session, the Texas Senate unanimously voted to prohibit any State support for the HSR Project. This budget prohibition was only removed from the final budget package after Legislators received a commitment and legal analysis declaring that no State support for the HSR Project is authorized under Texas law. Moreover, the HSR Project is only in the early stages of environmental permitting and faces numerous legal and political hurdles that will be fiercely fought and are highly unlikely to be overcome in Texas.

The broad opposition to the HSR Project is bi-partisan and driven by our desire to protect our communities and the principles of private property rights, which are the foundation of both the Texas Constitution and political system. Through their recently formed US companies, the HSR Project would unjustly take private property for the ultimate benefit of a foreign company. Furthermore, the HSR Project will cut through numerous counties that will have no stops and be permanently scarred by a track dividing land and property that has been passed down through Texas families for generations, in many cases spanning multiple centuries.

The leaders of Texas Central Railway have publicly stated they do not desire to use eminent domain to acquire the necessary rail right-of-way; however, we can confirm for you that eminent domain, if still legally available to this HSR Project, will be necessary in many, if not most, cases. In Texas, pride of family heritage has no price tag. There are multitudes of private property owners who do not want to sell their

farms, ranches, and private property to accommodate the HSR Project. Many of them took time from their lives and work to travel to the state capitol in Austin during the legislative session to voice their opposition. These property owners shared their emotional family stories and detailed how their homes, careers, family businesses and dreams for future generations would be ruined should the HSR Project proceed.

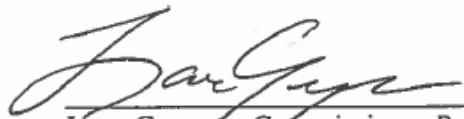
We believe, as Texans, in standing up for our rights and those of our neighbors. Just as much as we do not want this HSR Project to destroy our communities, we do not want Japanese citizens who invest in the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to lose money when the HSR Project fails. There may be other places that are better suited for and would welcome your Shinkansen technology. We encourage you to seek out a different market where this would provide an actual transportation solution and where you may encounter less opposition.

Respectfully,

The Ellis County Commissioners Court



Carol Bush, County Judge

Dennis Robinson, Commissioner Precinct 1

Lane Grayson, Commissioner Precinct 2

Paul Perry, Commissioner Precinct 3

Kyle Butler, Commissioner Precinct 4

The Navarro County Commissioners Court



H.M. Davenport
Navarro County Judge

Jason Grant
Commissioner, Pct. 1

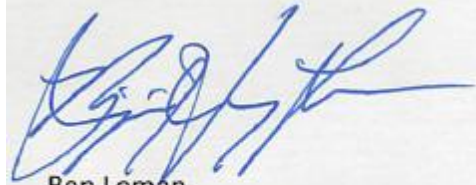
Dick Martin
Commissioner, Pct. 2

David "Butch" Warren
Commissioner, Pct. 3

James Olsen
Commissioner, Pct. 4



Daniel Burkeen, County Judge
Limestone County



Ben Leman
Grimes County Judge



Byron Ryder
Leon County Judge



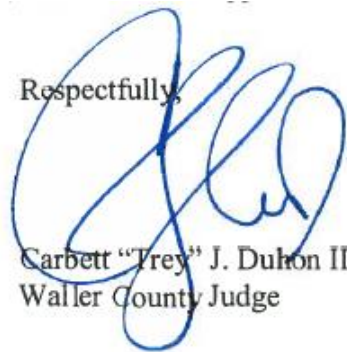
Linda K. Grant
Freestone County Judge

Respectfully,



C.E. McDaniel, Jr.
County Judge
Madison County Texas

Respectfully,



CARBETT "TREY" J. DUHON III
Waller County Judge



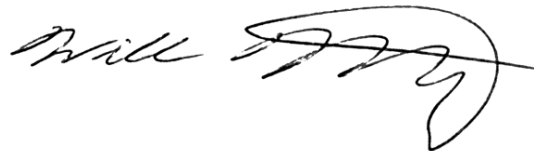
Texas State Senator Charles Schwertner



Texas State Senator Lois Kolkhorst



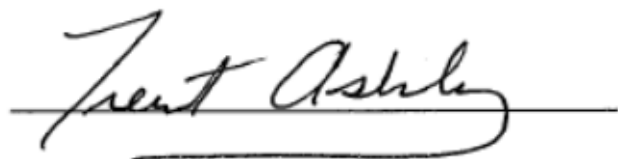
Texas State Senator Brian Birdwell



Texas State Representative Will Metcalf



Texas State Representative Leighton Schubert



Texas State Representative Trent Ashby



Texas State Representative Cecil Bell



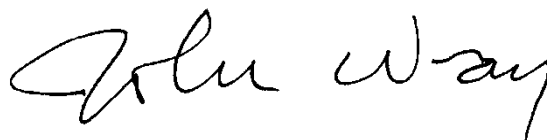
Texas State Representative John Raney



Texas State Representative Kyle Kacal



Texas State Representative Byron Cook



Texas State Representative John Wray

Leon County Sub-Regional Planning Commission

