



KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON
UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510-4304

February 1, 2008

Ms. Celia Boswell
Chairman
East Texas Corridor Council
413 North Pacific Street
Mineola, Texas 75773

Dear Celia:

I was pleased to hear the East Texas Corridor Council is co-hosting the National Association of Railroad Passengers Region 9 meeting in Dallas this weekend.

I know the ETCC is eager to integrate East Texas into the planned Dallas/Fort Worth regional rail system, and I am happy to support its efforts. We must provide alternative transportation options to ease the frustrating gridlock on our roads and highways. Amtrak and urban and mass transit systems have been useful tools to reduce the strain on our freeways. But, we must do more, and high speed passenger rail will be essential to manage the rapid growth in population and economic development in Texas and the congestion that will come as a consequence.

I have long been a supporter of high speed, but recognize all of the challenges in funding and building new rail infrastructure. For this reason, I am happy I was able to obtain funding for the East Texas Higher Speed Rail Feasibility Study, a step in bringing high speed rail to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay Bailey Hutchison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Kay Bailey Hutchison

KBH/acm