

**TEXAS ALLIANCE
OF RAIL DISTRICTS**

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September 8th, 2009

Mr. Amadeo Saenz, Jr., P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas, 78701-2483

Re: **TIGER Grant Application for the South Orient/ Texas Pacifico Railroad
Rehabilitation from San Angelo to Fort Stockton**

Dear Amadeo,

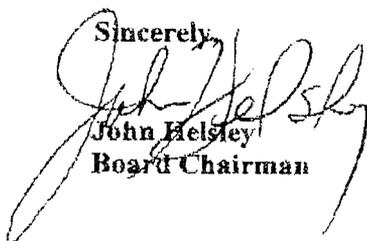
The Texas Alliance of Rail District is pleased to support the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) submittal of the South Orient/ Texas Pacifico RR (SORR/TPRR rail line project under the TIGER Discretionary Grants Program.

This project is vital to the increasing activity of rail traffic which will be to the benefit of the wind energy, agricultural, oil and gas industries in the transportation of their products. Proper maintenance of the line has been in questions for a number of years. New ties, ballast, bridge repair, etc. should get the line up to 25mph over most sections of the SORR/TPRR.

The revitalization of the line will enhance economic development opportunities along this very important rail corridor through the development of new jobs, expanded tax base and most importantly, the quality of life. More rail traffic will create less truck traffic and facilitate "public safety"

We respectfully provide our support of TxDOT in pursuing the TIGER Grant.

Sincerely,



John Helsley
Board Chairman