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August 28, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

It is a great pleasure for me to write this letter and give my formal endorsement of the Claremore Separated Track Project. This project will undoubtedly lead to many substantial benefits for the local economy in Claremore including:

- Affordable Quality Housing
- Job Creation (Office, Industrial and Retail Sectors)
- Reduction of current carbon footprint

Many exciting developments are underway in Claremore that will greatly benefit from the Separated Track project. Recent commercial development of the 125 acre Oklahoma Plaza project and the Ne-Mar Shopping Center renovation will be greatly assisted by the ease of traffic flow provided by the separated track project.

CIEDA is developing the North Industrial Corridor, a 600 + acre area made up of two industrial parks and home to 15 businesses. Two significant projects are underway in the industrial corridor that will be enhanced greatly by the separated track project. A Foreign Trade Sub-zone has been proposed for the area which will provide current and future businesses in the corridor with reduced shipping and trade related costs. Already one business desiring to use the zone estimates that their overall business costs will be reduced by \$500,000-\$1,000,000 annually. Access to the industrial corridor will be greatly enhanced through the Separated Track Project and when combined with the proposed Foreign Trade Sub-zone, benefits will ultimately result in significant job creation.

CIEDA and the City of Claremore are also working on the development of a trans-modal rail spur facility. This project is an extension of the Separated Track Project and will provide industrial rail access to current and future Claremore area businesses. It is estimated that as much as 50% of all current industrial real estate site selection searches require rail. The development of the Separated track Project and the Trans-modal Rail Spur Facility will provide Claremore with a distinct competitive advantage.

Together CIEDA and the City of Claremore are working to reduce Claremore's carbon footprint. Soon, the City of Claremore is expected to receive final approval for a Department of Energy grant award to match efforts already underway to synchronize the traffic lights on Highway 66. This project will greatly reduce the carbon footprint created by vehicles waiting in traffic at 7 stop lights. While synchronization addresses the carbon emission issues at these North and South intersections it does not address the issue at major East and West intersections long Highway 66. The Separated Track project, when completed will address carbon emission issues at the remaining intersections.

For the past 4 years CIEDA has engaged CEO's and other lead executives in the Claremore area. Each year transportation and traffic control have been identified as the number 1 issue by more than 90% of the executives surveyed. The Separated Track Project will help to solidify Claremore in the future. CIEDA supports this project and your assistance in moving it forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Hight', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim Hight, Executive Director

**New Vision. Clear Opportunities.**