Dear	,

As a concerned resident of the City of Richardson, I would like to extend my support for the DART Cotton Belt Rail Line Project, which would connect the DFW Metroplex from Plano/Richardson to Fort Worth. The opportunity to have a rail line that connects 13 cities, 3 counties and 3 universities is very exciting for the community. The City of Richardson has enjoyed a great relationship with DART since its inception, and our 4 rail stations are a staple in our community. DART has connected Richardson to the DFW region, and the development of the Cotton Belt Rail Line would enhance this connection. As a regional project, I feel the Cotton Belt can more effectively serve ridership, both from the east and west sides of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. In addition to the east and west sides of the Metroplex, the rail would also connect to DFW Airport, which would be an excellent success for Richardson and the DFW region.

SB 1333 is an important procedural step in bringing the Cotton Belt Rail Project to fruition. This bill would allow a public/private partnership to finance the project, which would bring the Cotton Belt Rail Line to Richardson and DFW much faster than an exclusive public financing option. I believe that without a public/private partnership, a regional rail project is not likely to happen for many years due to practical and financial reasons. The Cotton Belt will operate within existing local control approval steps and will ensure that the regional rail project is responsive to local communities.

As a Richardson resident, I am excited for the opportunity to have the Cotton Belt Rail Line in the DFW Metroplex. I believe this is the first step in connecting the DFW Metroplex like never before, and I am looking forward to the opportunities that would come from having this connection.

I strongly encourage you to support the development and success of the Cotton Belt Rail Line and Senate Bill 1333.

Sincerely,