THE FACULTY SENATE

June 19, 1998

Dr. Ray M. Bowen
President
Texas A&M University

Dear President Bowen:

At its regular monthly meeting held June 8, 1998 the Faculty Senate approved the following resolution from the Planning Committee:

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate has a clear and compelling interest in ensuring that the Texas A&M campus is a safe and serene setting for the pursuit of scholarship by students and faculty, and

WHEREAS, the railroad dividing our campus represents a serious danger in that people crossing between the East and West Campuses can and have been killed by trains, and a train derailment could have disastrous consequences to our campus and to our students, faculty, and staff at Texas A&M University; and

WHEREAS, expansion plans include doubling the number of trains from approximately 20 to approximately 40 per day, and increasing the number of tracks through the campus from one to two; and

WHEREAS, no complete relief from these problems is possible as long as the tracks bisect the Texas A&M University campus; and

WHEREAS, a window of opportunity exists at present in that there is now a Federal Government initiative to reduce the number of rail crossings in the country by 25%; and

WHEREAS, moving the traffic on the rail line to a route avoiding the campus and the cities of Bryan and College Station would produce a substantial reduction in the number of rail crossings, thus making possible Federal help in paying for the move;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate strongly supports the relocation of the traffic on the railroad line to a route bypassing the cities and campus.
President Ray M. Bowen  
June 19, 1998

Please inform me of your action on this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Kaplan  
Speaker, 1998-99

pc:  Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost  
Dr. Jerry Gaston, Vice President for Administration  
Senator Arthur M. Hobbs, Former Chair of the Planning Committee

APPROVED

Ray M. Bowen  

DATE  
7/21/98