[STATE OFFICIAL}

[Office Address]

Dear [Official]:

I am writing to ask that you support Salt Lake City’s Rio Grande Proposal. This proposal would greatly improve our state by removing several dangerous railroad crossings (including 200S, 800S and 900S to name a few) and opening over 70 acres for development. This project would improve the experience of commuters and long-distance travelers, all while helping to begin the healing of the east-west divide in Salt Lake City. A new central station located at the Rio Grande Depot would be a strong welcome to those who travel to Utah via train. It would provide significantly more amenities than the existing Salt Lake Central Station, all while being closer to downtown.

The Rio Grande Plan proposes the relocation of the tracks into a “Train Box” along 500 West. This Train Box would be a shallow tunnel wide enough for up to six train tracks allowing for all connections to the current system to be maintained and expanded. Our city prepared for the 2002 Olympics by cutting back the freeway viaducts to where they are today, the Rio Grande Plan would allow these ramps to be shortened once more, opening up valuable street frontage.

The estimated price tag of this project is similar to UDOT’s I-15 widening between Farmington and Salt Lake City, making the Rio Grande Plan an ideal project to complete before the Olympics. If this project were pursued as an Olympic transportation infrastructure project it would likely receive significant federal funding to reduce the burden on Utah’s taxpayers. The transportation legacy of the 2002 Winter Olympics are the billions of dollars of freeway projects completed leading up to the games. Most of the 2002 Olympic freeway improvements are still serving Utah well, allowing for transit projects such as The Rio Grande Proposal to be a focus in 2034.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Info]