

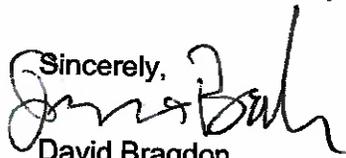
February 25, 2020

Ms. Lynn Guissinger
Director, District O
Regional Transportation District
1660 Blake Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Director Guissinger:

TransitCenter is an independent, public interest civic foundation dedicated to impartial applied research and advocacy to improve public transportation in major U.S. cities. We have studied governance in detail, including in our 2015 report, *Getting to the Route of It: The Role of Governance in Regional Transit*, which can be accessed at this link.
<https://transitcenter.org/publication/getting-to-the-route-of-it/>

Our studies and national experience has shown that transit agency boards which function best are those which are representative of the riders and residents of the region they serve. RTD's current structure is based on that theory, in that voters in the RTD area choose who represents them. We have found that state government authority, except in small, totally urban states like Rhode Island, often violates the basic principle of good governance: that officials should be accountable to the people who pay the fares and taxes that fund the agency. In most states, a majority of legislators, and often the Governor, largely represent constituents outside the transit district. Granting those state officials authority over a service that most of their constituents do not pay for or depend on, and overriding the current RTD structure which is based on the principle of regional officials who represent exclusively the territory and people being served, would make the agency less accountable, not more. I would be happy to respond to questions.

Sincerely,

David Bragdon
Executive Director