

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2005-06

CROSSRAIL

P E T I T I O N

Against the Bill - Praying to be heard by counsel, etc

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF

Leo F Walters FRICS Barrister-at-Law

SHEWETH as follows:

/contd.....

1. A Bill (hereinafter called "the Bill") has been introduced into and is now pending in your honourable House entitled "A Bill to make provision for a railway transport system running from Maidenhead, in the County of Berkshire, and Heathrow Airport, in the London Borough of Hillingdon, through central London to Shenfield, in the County of Essex, and Abbey Wood, in the London Borough of Greenwich; and for connected purposes".

2. Clauses 1 to 20 set out the Bill's objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway transport system mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for compulsory acquisition, planning permission, heritage issues, trees and noise. Clauses 21 to 44 of the Bill establish a regulatory regime for the railway transport system and clauses 45 to 59 of the Bill deal with miscellaneous and general provisions.

3. The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill are specified in Schedule 1 to the Bill and the scheduled works are defined in the Bill as the works specified in Schedule 1 to the Bill which are works authorised to be constructed by the undertaker (defined in the Bill and hereinafter referred to as "the nominated undertaker").

4. WHO IS THE PETITIONER

Your Petitioner is Leo F Walters of 6 Dunraven Street Mayfair London W1K 7FD.

He has lived in Mayfair for over 40 years, qualified both as a Chartered Surveyor and a Barrister-at-Law, was Chief Estates Surveyor to both BOAC and British Airways and now in private practice. Currently a Councillor on The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (was Mayor for the year 2002/2003) and until recently Chairman of the Residents Association of Mayfair (RAM), now amalgamated with St.James's called The Residents Society of Mayfair and St.James's He has helped to promote for the last 10/15 years an alternative CrossRail route known as CrossRail Northern Interchange Route (CNIR) devised by Norman Winbourne, the late Dr Ronald West, and supported by our local Member of Parliament, Mark Field.

5. WHY THE BILL AFFECTS THE PETITIONER

The Petitioner has a long leasehold flat at 6 Dunraven Street which is directly and specifically affected by CrossRail, and Terra Quest Group PLC have given me a reference number 8832. 6 Dunraven Street lies immediately above the CrossRail tunnel route. Also nearby is the proposed Park Lane works site and Park Lane shaft (for ventilation) - see Environmental Statement Volume 8b central route section.

6. THE PETITIONERS REQUEST OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

- (a) It should be pointed out that this same CrossRail route was rejected by an all Party Opposed Bill Committee of the House of Commons in 1994 after months of public hearings.
- (b) I attended the Second Reading of the CrossRail Bill on the 19th July 2005 and would request that the Select Committee gives serious consideration to the alternative route, known as CrossRail Northern Interchange Route (CNIR), which has been part financed by local residents and which would link from Paddington to Marylebone/Baker Street, Euston/St.Pancras/King's Cross, Barbican/Moorgate/Liverpool Street/Bishopsgate, resulting in many more interchange possibilities than CrossRail and being a far better strategic route, as well as being, cheaper, less environmentally damaging and disruptive. The statement by the CrossRail team on this alternative route required by Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations (Part 1) is fundamentally untrue and grossly misleading.
- (c) I would ask the Select Committee to give serious consideration to the security risks to the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square by the present CrossRail proposal. Upper Grosvenor Street and Upper Brook Street run directly alongside the American Embassy (East to West). It is proposed that these two roads will be used by the contractors of CrossRail for the removal of spoil with thousands of construction lorry movements see Table 5.1 Environmental Statement Volume 8b.

With all the world's nationalities being employed, thousands of lorry movements so close to the American Embassy, it is difficult to imagine a potentially more dangerous situation from a terrorist point of view. Together with this there are vast tunnels which would have to be dug close to the Embassy. A delegation of three including myself went to the American Embassy on the 17th August 2005 to inform the Embassy of the situation as we know it. Obviously this threat is not confined to the Embassy but also the many residents living in the vicinity, visitors, shoppers, tourists and the like.

- (d) For the Select Committee to give serious consideration to the effect of such a colossal construction in central London and its effect on the Mayfair Conservation Area and the many listed buildings within it often with shallow foundations and the general chaos that would be created for so many years, coincidental with the Olympic Games construction work.
- (e) I support and adopt as part of my petition those objections to this proposed CrossRail route as set down by The Residents Society of Mayfair and St James's of which I am a member.

7. GENERAL

There are other clauses and provisions in the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand, would prejudicially affect the rights and interest of your petitioner and other clauses and provisions necessary for his protection and benefit are omitted therefrom.

YOUR PETITIONER THEREFORE

HUMBLY PRAY

your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands and that he be heard by himself, his counsel, agents and witnesses in support of the allegations of this petition, against so much of the Bill as affects the property, rights, and interests of your petitioner and in support of such other clauses and amendments as may be necessary and proper for his protection and benefit.

AND YOUR PETITIONER will ever pray,