

HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2005-06

CROSSRAIL

PETITION

Against the Bill – Praying to be heard by counsel, &c.

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

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF JAN AND MICHAEL POINTER

SHEWETH as follows:-

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 nominated undertaker (defined in the Bill and hereinafter referred to as "the nominated undertaker").
4. Your Petitioners are Jan and Michael Pointer, of 1, Pinecroft, Hutton Mount, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 2PG . This is a four bedroom detached house occupied by two people .
5. Your Petitioners' house is near to and up hill from the site of the proposed works at Shenfield Station and within range of the existing Station Annoucement system. It will therefore be significantly affected by noise during the proposed works at Shenfield Station although it is not within the designated roads which may be eligible for insulation or even rehousing according to the Environmental Statement deposited with the Bill. Your Petitioners will be so affected yet provided with no effective means of protection or compensation for the nuisance.
6. Your Petitioners and their rights interests and property will be injuriously affected by the proposals in the Bill to which your Petitioners object , for the reasons, amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
7. Your Petitioners understand that the passenger load factors at peak periods on the Liverpool Street to Shenfield line are already above average for commuter services into London. Indeed, when proposals were recently made for a rail "congestion charge" the Liverpool Street to Chelmsford line was classified as one quaifying for the highest level of "congestion charge." The Promoters' proposals in the Bill for use of existing tracks between Stratford and Shenfield Stations for Crossrail trains will therefore only exacerbate these problems. By extending the

proposed Crossrail link beyond Stratford using only existing tracks, the Promoters are risking serious delays to their whole cross London service, as even where dedicated Crossrail tracks are built through London, the trains may be delayed before reaching those tracks.

The proposed operation of Crossrail traffic on the existing lines between Stratford and Shenfield Stations will adversely affect the commuter and long distance services which are already at full capacity at peak periods. Existing and Government plans for housing development in Essex will inevitably increase numbers of commuters and already threaten the viability of services on this line. The addition of the proposed Crossrail services can only be catastrophic.

It appears that there will be no compensating benefit in the quality or speed of the service from Shenfield Station with no reduction in time expected for the journey to Heathrow and indeed the Promoters themselves admit in their own supporting documents that only a "small" number of extra passengers are expected to use the service from Shenfield.

The Petitioners therefore submit that the vast expenditure for the Stratford to Shenfield extension as presently proposed and the inevitable disruption and noise during necessary works are totally unjustifiable in terms of anticipated usage, service quality and financial return and would seriously disadvantage users of the existing commuter and long distance services.

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

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE

HUMBLY PRAY

your Honourable House that the Bill may not pass into law as it now stands and that they be heard by themselves, their 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 Petitioners and in support of such other clauses and amendments as may be necessary and proper for their protection and benefit.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS will ever pray, &c.