

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on Merits – 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

GRAFTON MERCHANTING GB LIMITED

SHEWETH as follows:

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House intituled “*A Bill to Make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Old Oak Common in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to a junction with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at York Way in the London Borough of Islington and a spur from Water Orton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street in Birmingham; and for connected purposes*”.
2. The Bill is presented by Mr Secretary McLoughlin, supported by The Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary Theresa May, Secretary Vince Cable, Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary Eric Pickles, Secretary Edward Davey, and Mr Robert Goodwill.
3. Clauses 1 to 23 set out the Bill’s objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway transport system set out in paragraph 1 above. They include compulsory acquisition and planning. Clauses 24 to 42 establish a regulatory regime for the railway transport system and clauses 43 to 65 deal with miscellaneous and general provisions. The works affecting your Petitioners are contained in Schedule 1 Scheduled Works numbers 1/1, 1/15, 1/45 and 1/46.
4. Your Petitioners are Grafton Merchanting GB Limited, a chain of builders merchants, who have a leasehold interests in and an operational business undertaking at Chase Road in the London Borough of Ealing (Parcel 251 on sheet number 1-17 (“the Plumbase Property”)).

5. Your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for the reasons, amongst others, set out below:
- a. Your Petitioners' Plumbase Property is a wholesale supplier of plumbing, heating and bathroom spares and materials. It comprises a single storey warehouse of approximately 4,200 sq ft from which your Petitioners carry on their business.
 - b. The Promoters propose to take the entirety of the Plumbase Property for the duration of the construction period, for use in connection with the Victoria Road crossover main construction compound. The proposed works will require the demolition of the existing building and clearance of the site.
 - c. The proposed works will entail the total extinguishment of your Petitioners' business undertaking at the Plumbase Property.
 - d. The Promoters have failed adequately to consider all the potential alternatives to use of the Plumbase Property for the siting of a compound. The Promoters have also failed to justify the need for inclusion of the Plumbase Property in the land required for the Victoria Road crossover main construction compound. Your Petitioners consider that use of the Plumbase Property is unnecessary and disproportionate in light of the impacts of the proposed works on the Plumbase Property.
 - e. The extinguishment of your Petitioners' undertaking at the Plumbase Property will unnecessarily harm your Petitioners' legitimate business interests and affect local traders who will, at inconvenience and loss, be obliged to travel further afield for materials.
 - f. The Bill ought therefore to be amended to exclude the Plumbase Property as being required to construct the Victoria Road Crossover box main construction compound.
 - g. While some loss of trade to existing businesses affected by construction impact is conceded, no firm and binding commitment is offered by the Promoters to compensate your Petitioners before the exercise of powers of entry.
7. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, the Bill should not be allowed to pass into law.

8. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioners and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that they may be heard by 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 provisions as may be necessary or expedient for their protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.



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GRAFTON MERCHANTING GB LIMITED

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Agent for the Petitioner:

Clare Fielding

Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co LLP

4 More London Riverside

London

SE1 2AU


(Reference CRF)

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