

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 Pamela Mary Garner

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 Owen Paterson, Secretary Edward Davey, Mr Robert Goodwill.
- 3 Objection is taken to the works to be undertaken within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and in particular to **works 2.13 to 2.27** (listed in Schedule 1 of the bill) in the parishes of Little Missenden, Great Missenden, Chartridge and The Lee, and to the clauses of the bill which would authorise these works.

- 4 Your Petitioner resides in the Lee within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (hereinafter referred to as "the AONB").
- 5 Your Petitioner and their rights, property and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

Specific Concerns

- 6 Your petitioner has invested heavily in two rental properties in The Lee and typically rents these as a sole trader to business people who work either locally or in London. She is seriously concerned that the construction works will seriously damage this business; the area will be far less attractive and the traffic delays caused by construction vehicles will further decrease the appeal of the properties. Your petitioner notes that construction will be on-going for several years.
- 7 Your petitioner is seriously concerned about the loss of value of her own house as a result of HS2 blight, and this is particularly acute as she approaches retirement.
- 8 Your petitioner's families live locally but are located on the other side of the A413 from The Lee. Your petitioner routinely collects her grandchildren for school and clubs, and need to be able to travel to them promptly and without delay most days. Furthermore, your petitioner routinely travels to doctors, dentists and opticians. She will be seriously inconvenienced by construction traffic and the resultant delays.
- 9 Your petitioner objects to the use of 'sustainable placement' in the AONB (at Hunts Green) which your petitioner regards as a failure to observe the waste hierarchy and ignores their own policy that landfill should not be at a nationally sensitive site. This large scale redesign of the landscape is incompatible with its status as an Area of Outstanding **Natural** Beauty.
- 10 Your petitioner is concerned about continuing audible and visual intrusion of the railway in operation. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility of HS2 in the Environmental Statement shows it will be seen from across the Misbourne valley, and even this ignored the gantries. The noise impacts are inadequately mitigated, for those living in proximity to the line, with little done to address the impact on walkers, cyclists or horse riders, whose needs are hardly mentioned in the ES (Vol 2) reports covering the AONB (parts 7 to 10)

- 11 Your petitioner requests that the AONB be protected from these effects by ensuring that the line passes throughout the AONB in a bored tunnel, either as proposed by **Chiltern District Council**¹, or as proposed by the **CRAIG T 2 Tunnel**², the latter having been accepted by HS2 Ltd in the Environmental Statement as both feasible and environmentally preferable to the proposal in the Bill. This would substantially mitigate the adverse effects objected to in this petition, and the need for the less effective remedies proposed below.
- 12 Your Petitioner contends that a bored tunnel throughout the AONB would be a cost effective means of avoiding long term environmental damage, and severe construction disruption. Such problems will otherwise need to be addressed at considerable cost but with a less satisfactory environmental outcome.
- 13 The planned speed of HS2 causes it to have far more adverse environmental impacts than it need have, as it is unable to curve round environmentally sensitive areas, making it more obtrusive. Furthermore noise and energy consumption increase rapidly with speed, making speed highly undesirable environmentally. A reduction from the planned initial speed of 225mph to 185mph (as for HS1) increases the journey time between London and Birmingham by only 4.5 minutes, but such a reduction in speed would allow HS2 to follow existing transport corridors and have far less adverse impacts.
- 14 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above (to remove the works noted in paragraph 3 from the schedule) so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 15 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, property and interests 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.

¹ High Speed Rail in the Chilterns: Feasibility Study of Alternative Tunnelling Options. Peter Brett with OTB Engineering Ltd and Beazley Sharpe (Railwise) Ltd. April 2014

² <http://www.thelee.org.uk/HS2%20storage/Proposals%20for%20the%20Chilterns%20Tunnel%20Extension%20Dec%202013.pdf>

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signature of Petitioner in person,

[Redacted signature area]

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AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Pamela Mary Garner

