

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013-14

**HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL**

Against – on ~~Merits~~ – 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 Mrs. Lucinda Laing

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, and Mr Robert Goodwill.
- 3 Clauses 1 to 36 set out the Bill’s objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for the construction of works, highways and road traffic matters, the compulsory acquisition of land and other provisions relating to the use of land, planning permission, heritage issues, trees and noise. They include clauses which would disapply and modify various enactments relating to special categories of land including burial grounds, consecrated land, commons and open spaces, and other matters, including overhead lines, water, building regulations and party walls, street works and the use of lorries.
- 4 Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.

- 5       Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill set out a number of miscellaneous and general provisions, including provision for the appointment of a nominated undertaker ("the Nominated Undertaker") to exercise the powers under the Bill, transfer schemes, provisions relating to statutory undertakers and the Crown, provision about the compulsory acquisition of land for regeneration, reinstatement works and provision about further high speed railway works. Provision is also made about the application of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
- 6       The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill ("the Authorised Works") are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedule 1 to the Bill. They consist of scheduled works, which are described in Schedule 1 to the Bill and other works, which are described in clause 2 of the Bill.
- 7       Your Petitioner is Mrs Lucinda Laing (hereinafter known as the Petitioner) (hereinafter known as the Property) lives at Turweston Manor, Turweston, Brackley, NN135JX and owns the majority of land East of the river Ouse between Turweston and Whitfield.
- 8       Your Petitioner's rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing: severance of land, noise, air quality, and compensation.
- 9       Your Petitioner's grazing and arable land will be bisected by the line of HS2 and she needs continued access to it throughout the construction period and beyond. Her tenant, Rachel Halvorsen and Clifford Halvorsen also require access to the organic grassland East of the Ouse towards Whitfield, approximately 10h of which will not be required during construction so will be available for grazing. She also requires access to the small field just North of her property for her ponies to graze. The map shows that this will be cut off by a small compulsory purchased strip of hedge or stream (it's not clear which).
- 10       Noise
- 10.1     Your Petitioner wishes the increase in noise both during and after construction to be minimal. She requests that the 3m noise fence barrier which is planned to start at the beginning of the embankment to the viaduct be extended for a further 200m as the line emerges from the cutting and that this be effectively screened by planting.
- 10.2     Your Petitioner wishes the hours of construction to be limited to daytime and weekdays, not just by code of practice, but by legally binding rules with heavy penalties for infringement and for a local council officer to be employed to police and enforce the rules.

11 Air Quality

- 11.1 Your Petitioner is concerned about air quality and that the small amount of grazing she has left for her ponies will become covered in dust and unable to be used. She would like a guarantee that HS2 Ltd will pay for alternative nearby grazing for her ponies and for someone to check on them should this be the case.
- 11.2 Your Petitioner requests that before construction there should be an air quality baseline monitoring study benchmarked against the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 and a copy of this report should be made public. Your petitioner submits that thresholds for air quality and an air quality mitigation plan should be produced for each Community Forum Area, to apply both during construction and operation of HS2.
- 11.3 Your Petitioner requests that the local authority should be provided with powers to monitor air quality in accordance with binding mitigation plans and in the event air quality thresholds are breached, your Petitioner submits that the Bill should be amended to enable the local authority to require the cessation of construction activities until such point as air quality thresholds are complied with.

12. Compensation

- 12.1 Your petitioner is aware that under current rules she will not be compensated for the full diminution in the value of the Property or the noise, traffic and dust that she will have to endure over the five and a half years of construction. This is in spite of the fact that she will not be able to get on the train as there is no local station but she will be sharing the enormous bill by paying for it in her taxes. She feels it is unfair to have to pay capital gains tax on compulsory purchased land or land which has to be bought because of unavoidable severance and this tax ought to be waived.
- 12.2 Your Petitioner requests that the rules for compensation are changed so that affected parties are fully compensated for all their suffering and not penalised in any way for their misfortune in living close to the line.
- 13 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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BILL

PETITION OF Mrs Lucinda Laing

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

Mrs Lucinda Laing

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]