

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

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 Kate Ammon

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House entitled “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 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 are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedules 1 and 2 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 and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.
7. Your Petitioner lives within CFA / London Borough of Hillingdon. Your Petitioner's property and other properties on the estate have not been safeguarded by HS2 Ltd and no homes are set to be acquired for construction. Your Petitioner strongly believes there will be adverse affects to resident's access and children's access to school.
8. Your Petitioner and their rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which Your Petitioner object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. The scheme contains plans for the tunnelled section in the Ruislip area, to include utilities work on West End Road, by the entrance to the estate (as well as other local roads of Bridgewater Road and Long Drive). It is assumed West End Road, Bridgewater Road and Long Drive will at some point close or be severely disrupted. Due to the volume of traffic any extended closure of West End Road may have severe consequences and Your Petitioner has serious concerns regarding the accessibility. Any closure on West End Road would pack a disturbing amount of extra traffic onto already overcrowded local roads. Your Petitioner is strongly concerned about the possibility of the negative consequences this could bring to the lives of all the local residents.

Local road closures may come with a cost to local residents such as removing access to local services (shops, chemist and post office) and children's access to school and other local facilities. Your Petitioner is anxious about their own ability to meet their working hours. The estate does not have a doctor's surgery or any shops which are contained within its boundaries. Long road closures of this type and any disruption could possibly leave hundreds of homes feeling cut off. Your Petitioner is incredibly worried about accessibility for emergency vehicles.

10. Your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker must review the construction strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. And they need to suggest necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed. Your Petitioner feels there are measures which may mitigate any disruption, and respectfully suggest the following may be considered. Works to be carried out outside of term time so as to disrupt minimum amount of traffic, and if works extends into term time, work to be limited to either side of school run times. Any work undertaken on West End Road is staggered with work carried out on Bridgewater Road and Long Drive to minimise disruption to the area. Your Petitioner would also like to seek reassurance that there will be no disruption to utilities to homes, access to Ruislip Garden's Tube Station and the local bus route will not be restricted. Your Petitioner respectfully request that local roads will not be used for construction vehicles and are not cut off for pedestrians or cars.
11. For the foregoing and connected reasons Your Petitioner respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting Your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.
12. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect Your Petitioner and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect Your Petitioner.

YOUR PETITIONER 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 Petitioner 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 Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Signed Mrs. Kate Ammon

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MRS Kate Ammon