

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 CHRISTINA ELIZABETH O’SULLIVAN

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 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.

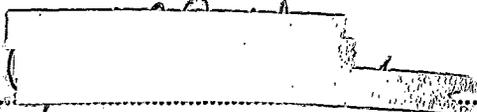
4. Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.
5. Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill set out a number of miscellaneous and general provisions, including provision for the appointment of a nominated undertaker ("the Nominated Undertaker") to exercise the powers under the Bill, 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 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 is Christina Elizabeth O'Sullivan of 11 Beverley Close, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7GA. I have lived here since August 2005 and moved to this house as it was within walking distance from shops, doctors, local pubs and backing onto fields with a wonderful view at the end of my garden. I considered the position and advantage of existing friends in the close the perfect spot to retire to as my husband is now 67 and I am 62. I understood that the main train line from Birmingham to London runs at the bottom of the fields but as it is down in a dip (400 meters away) I can hardly hear or see it with the trees blanketing the noise. When we moved here no searches showed what you intended to do with HS2 and I judge from your documentation that the viaduct over the main line will be erected 9 meters above the existing line at Berkswell Station and beyond with a construction unit to the right. All within full view of my property. This has devalued the value of my property at a time in my life when I have no earning power to get myself out of this situation. I intended to sell this property to pay for my care in old age as I have no children or relatives to fall back on.

8. Your Petitioner and her rights, interests and property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. I do not want to move away from my community in my retirement but the mass destruction HS2 will bring to our area during construction and the noise and arc lighting from the construction unit at night will be unbearable, especially in my seventies. The position of my property puts me in the heart of Balsall Common and by the time you have closed Kelsey Lane, closed Truggist Lane, and closed Lavender Hall Lane for construction I will be locked into a small area which will mean getting to Solihull, Kenilworth or Coventry will be virtually impossible without major detours costing so much more money and time to get around to the local facilities. I am just outside the 300 meter limit for compensation and as I will be in my late seventies when construction is concluded, I hardly think I will be fighting for Long Term Compensation then. I have paid my taxes all my life, I have never been out of work or ill, I have cost this country nothing but you think its right to take what's mine and totally disrupt and cause all this heartache and worry at my time of life, I call it stealing.
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 change the solution for our area to a Tunnel. It is the only solution to prevent mass destruction, loss of assets and the overwhelming sensation that this Government has completely lost all sense of commitment to the people with the outrageous and punitive offerings of compensation. I thought this Government were for the workers?
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

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PETITION OF Christina Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

Christina Elizabeth O'Sullivan

[REDACTED]

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