

THE HUMBLE PETITION

of Jonathan Zokay

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 the 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 Nominator 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 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) I am, Jonathan Zokay ("Your Petitioner") of 6 Borrowdale, Robert Street, London, NW1 3QG. Your Petitioner has lived there for 5 years and 6 months. Your Petitioner has lived in the area all his life. Your Petitioner is a 64 year old owner/occupier and is recovering from prostate cancer. Your Petitioner's property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but the construction traffic is 8 feet from Your Petitioner's doorstep which leads onto Robert Street and the property is 20 feet from Stanhope Street. Your Petitioner is going to experience 24 hour noise, dust, pollution and vibration due to where his flat block is situated.

8) Your Petitioner and his interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which Your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

9) The Bill includes power for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take a minimum of 10 years to complete and will include lorry movements, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and 24 hour working. This will inevitably lead to sleep deprivation and extra stress which will have a fatal impact on Your Petitioner's health. After 4 years of treatment at University College Hospital and Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, Your Petitioner is in the recovery period. The increase in air pollution, particularly on Robert Street, will have a detrimental impact on Your Petitioner's health. Air quality levels in Euston Road exceed more than double the World Health Organisation's acceptable standards. Your Petitioner is at risk from 24 hour noise, dust, pollution and vibration which is highly likely to trigger a relapse in Your Petitioner's condition as a direct result of HS2 being built. Emergency services will not be able to arrive and having used their services more than half a dozen times this is a terrifying factor in the HS2 plans. Your Petitioner also has a chronic cough and severe hayfever; it affects Your Petitioner's eyes and nose which will cause daily discomfort whilst works take place.

10) For work Your Petitioner restores oil paintings. To complete this Your Petitioner needs to have access to free-circulating air. Without such it will contribute further to Your Petitioner's ill health and stop Your Petitioner's work entirely. Your Petitioner will not receive compensation for this.

11) The increase in traffic will prevent Your Petitioner getting access to shops. It will have a detrimental effect on the amenities Your Petitioner pays for. Your Petitioner has been told that utilities and water supply will be cut off during the work.

12) Therefore Your Petitioner is directly and specially affected.

13) Your Petitioner objects to the HS2 Scheme in its current form. Your Petitioner also objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker. Your Petitioner respectfully submits that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Officer must review the construction strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. They need to suggest necessary changes from the result of that review before works, design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed. For example; if work goes ahead at Euston, your Petitioner believes that construction should be double decked down and not a horizontal spread of building works. Your Petitioner believes that the rubble should be transported by rail to have the least impact on the social environment. Your Petitioner believes that there is a better alternative terminus at St Pancras station, where a high speed line already exists and a vast area of land lies behind the station, which can be used for redevelopment.

14) 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 for which no adequate provision is made to protect Your Petitioner.

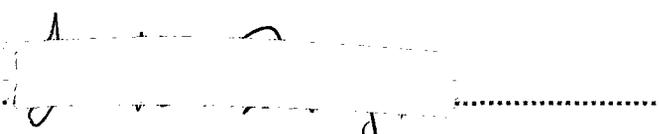
15) Your Petitioner therefore asks that the limits on who receives compensation are readdressed. It is clear from Your Petitioner's circumstances that the current limits are inadequate and the effect of HS2 on people outside these zones will be drastic. Your Petitioner is specially and directly affected despite being outside the area that will be compensated. Your Petitioner should be awarded compensation for the suffering faced as a result of the Bill being passed.

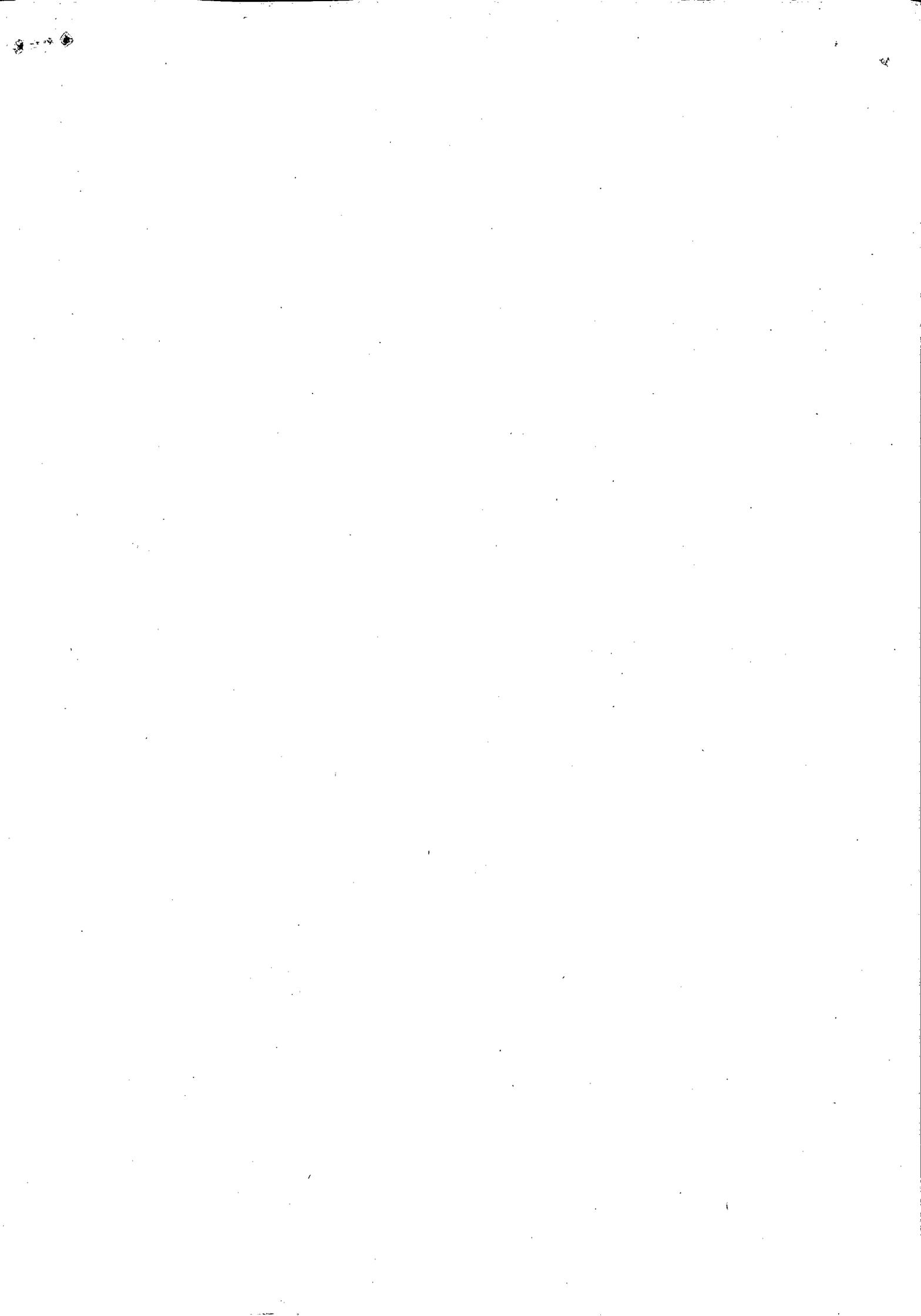
16) The form of compensation Your Petitioner is seeking, is in the first instance for the promoter to buy your petitioner's property at full market value (in a non-scheme world) plus 10% as if Your Petitioner were living in the safeguarded area and Your Petitioner were eligible for the benefits of and access to the Express Purchase Scheme.

YOUR PETITIONER therefore humbly prays 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 it 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 Jonathan Zokay





IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF JONATHAN ZOKAY

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on merits

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in
Parliament assembled