

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013-4

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON-WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against the Bill-Praying will 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 SHUMA BEGUM

~~SE~~WETH as follows:

A Bill (hereinafter called “the Bill”) has been introduced into 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”.

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.

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.

Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.

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.

The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill ("Phase One of HS2") 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.

Your petitioner's property ( 10 Buttermere, Augustus Street, London, NW1 3TE) will not be demolished as a result of the Bill in its current form, however, it is one street away from blocks that are proposed to be demolished. Further, Augustus Street and indeed the rounds around it are likely to be used of utility. Your petitioner lives with their parents and a sister and is particularly concerned with the negative impact this Bill will have on the lives of their parents, one of whom will be in his 80s when the proposed construction begins and another who is in remission from cancer

Your petitioner and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take 10 years and will include lorry movements, the creation of noise and dust, poor air quality and 24 hour workings

Your petitioner welcomes the recognition by the government that the HS2-HS1 link is flawed and believes that this link will lessen the impact of traffic, noise, dust and pollution in the Borough as well as preserve key economic and cultural areas e.g. Camden Market. The petitioner is, however, concerned that little is known about what HS2 Plus will entail and therefore those undertaking this petition process are not clear on what exactly we are petitioning against

The construction work will lead to significant increases in two of the most serious air pollutants- Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter and the operation of HS2 is likely to add to this. Camden already has dangerously high levels of pollutants and your petitioner is concerned about the health impacts on your petitioner, their family and the wider community, a community which includes many elderly and young people. Your petitioner's father suffers from asthma and living in the middle of construction side will only exacerbate this.

Your petitioner would therefore ask your honourable House to require the promoter to: fund air filtration systems for affected properties; signpost and highlight cleaner route that pedestrians can take; use low emission vehicles and to use rail as much as possible for the dispersal of spoil

The construction proposed by this Bill will lead to a loss of urban space in an already highly urbanised area. Walking impacts both physical and mental health positively. Your petitioner often takes her mother (who has a tapped nerve in her leg) for walks as this has a therapeutic effect. The loss of open spaces in conjunction with increased traffic and deterioration in air quality will make walking less enjoyable. Your petitioner asks your honourable House to require the promoters to provide or fund and assist London Borough of Camden in providing replacement open spaces lost during the construction period. Your petitioner would particularly like removing barriers to access Regent's Park.

Your petitioner is particularly concerned about access for emergency services into the Regent's Park estate. Your petitioner has parents who are either quite elderly or have health problems and fears that if emergency medical services are required, the construction works and traffic will delay any urgent care reaching its destination. Your petitioner requests that the promoters be required to ensure that the nominated undertaker will conduct regular discussions with London Borough of London and the emergency services concerning planned closures and alterations to routes.

With long working hours (likely around 12 hours in the proximity of the petitioner's home), your petitioner is concerned about the impact of noise on their family as they will impact sleep and concentration. Your petitioner therefore asks your honourable House to require the promoter to provide triple glazing or its equivalent where required

Your petitioner, an aunt to seven young people, all of whom reside in the Borough of Camden is concerned about the loss of play areas during and after the construction phase. Your petitioner therefore asks your honourable House to require of the promoter to provide alternative playground spaces or enhance existing playground such as those located in Munster Square, Cumberland Market and Oakley Square

Your petitioner believes that the impacts of construction and house demolition can be significantly reduced and/or avoided by locating the London terminus of this line at Old Oak Common instead of Euston. It would provide an effective interchange for onward journeys on the underground, on cross rail and to Heathrow airport, thereby providing a more integrated transport system

YOUR PETITIONER THERFOE 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 affects the property, rights and interests of your Petitioners and in support of such other of such other clauses and amendments as may be necessary and proper for their protection and benefit.

AND YOUR PETITIONER will every pray, &c.

Signed Shuma Begum.....