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IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on merits – Praying to be heard in Person, &c.

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

THE HUMBLE PETITION of SUSAN AND THOMAS MASSEY

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 Petitioners are a married couple approaching retirement and have lived in the same road in Swiss Cottage (Community Forum Area 3- Primrose Hill to Kilburn) for over forty years. Your Petitioners' home will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but is within 5 minutes walk of the proposed Alexandra Place vent shaft. Your Petitioners live on a narrow one way residential road, with a counter flow for cyclists and with a busy nursery school. This road will be used by construction related traffic and by traffic displaced by HS2 construction works.  
Your Petitioners currently can travel easily to all parts of London either walking or using public transport.  
Your Petitioners' doctor's surgery is located in Adelaide Road next to the proposed vent shaft.  
Your Petitioners would make the point that there has been throughout the whole process a lack of firm detail. This seemingly deliberate vagueness on all aspects of the project makes it very difficult to understand fully the likely impact on their neighbourhood. Therefore your Petitioners reserve the right to comment further if changes are made or if additional information becomes available.
8. Your Petitioners and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to undertake works of construction which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include lorry movements, creation of dust and noise and poor air quality. Your Petitioners are concerned that:
  - a) there will be increased air and dust pollution from the extra lorry and vehicle movements

- b) there may be 24 hour working
- c) there will be noise pollution from the extra traffic
- d) there will be inevitable disruption to overground and underground rail services, and bus services
- e) there will be many long running road closures and diversions
- f) having been registered with the same Adelaide Road doctor's practice for forty years the HS2 works will make it difficult to access the practice for a substantial but at present unascertainable period
- g) their quality of life will be degraded for the rest of their lives by the HS2 construction works

10 Your Petitioners would ask that :

- a) for monitoring purposes all the construction traffic vehicles have a distinctive livery
- b) the cleanest possible electric or low emission vehicles be used for all construction work wherever possible
- c) all work be carried out in normal weekday working hours
- d) the existing rail lines be used for delivery to sites and spoil disposal to the maximum possible extent
- e) to try to reduce pollution that temporary or permanent green foliage barriers are installed along construction routes and around sites
- f) HS2 is temporarily terminated at Old Oak Common so that the fullest possible consideration can be given to plans to minimise the impact of continuing the line to Euston.

11 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 Themselves 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed Susan Massey .....

Signed Thomas Massey .....

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AGAINST &c.