

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

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

THE HUMBLE PETITION of MARGARET KING

SHOWETH 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 ground, 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 purchase 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 of the Bill, and other works, which are described in clause 2 of, and Schedules 2 and 3 to, the Bill.
7. Your petitioner, Margaret King, of Flat 8, 8, Belsize Grove, London, NW3 4UN, dreads the effects of this scheme on herself and everyone else who will be affected. I have lived in this flat since December 1978. Although I understand that Belsize Grove itself will not be affected unduly I believe that the two main streets, Haverstock Hill and, especially, England's Lane, *will* be so affected, so that I myself will also be affected when I use these streets to shop for food.
8. Your Petitioner and her interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. This work will mean years of disruption and pollution affecting people's health. I suffer from breathing problems which will obviously be greatly exacerbated by this pollution; I have experienced two chest infections which were very unpleasant. The work will obviously be very noisy; I suffer from Asperger's Syndrome, a mild form of autism, one aspect of which is sensory overload.

I am a very unconfident person who dreads the unknown or any unprecedented experience. I feel about this as I do about *my own death*; but simultaneously feel so apprehensive about this work that in part of my mind I almost hope that I *will* have died before it starts!

I will be 70 in the middle of next year; I have considerable fears that there will not be the funds for the services I may need, as I get older, due to the immense cost of bringing this Bill to fruition.

I also have a more general concern. How will the congestion caused by these works affect the response of emergency vehicles? We in the Belsize area have already been deprived of our Police and Fire stations.

10. With regard to the emergency services would it be possible to provide some sort of temporary emergency sites? As a non-driver I travel extensively by bus; would it be possible to provide a 24-hour phone line to give information about bus services and routes? Finally, I wonder whether – at least until preparations for Euston are complete – the work could be started at Old Oak Common.
11. There are other provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand, will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and her rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner.

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 she may be heard by herself 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 other such 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

