

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 PEITION of MALCOLM BILLINGS

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 lives at 200 North Gower Street, London NW1 2LY. He has lived at this address for 30 years. Your Petitioner is 77 years old and lives in a family home with his two children. He is a writer who works from home and the disruption of a minimum of ten years caused by the Bill proposals is to the detriment to both his health and his work. Your Petitioner's property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill proposals but it is very close to the buildings that are proposed to be demolished and also the construction site that will replace those buildings. Your Petitioner relies on local busses as his primary sources of transport and enjoys very much living in this area because he has established his family life there and it is convenient location in London with a hospital at the end of his street.
8. Your Petitioners and his interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioner believes that the impact on his family life will be severe. For example, construction works might take up to ten years and there is the very well possibility of 24 hour working. Your Petitioner considers his life would be nothing less than hell trying to work and write and live in his property with this type of construction.
10. Your Petitioner fears that his health might suffer both from being kept awake all night and also dust that will arise from demolition and construction.

11. Your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill and that the construction strategy for the Bill proposals should be reviewed.
12. Your Petitioner requests that his property is assessed for any cumulative impacts that might arise as a result of HS2, including dust and noise and vibration impacts and any mitigation measures to be applied at no cost to your Petitioner to ensure that his property remains habitable during construction of the Bill proposals.
13. Your Petitioner considers the design of Euston Station is inappropriate and more use of platforms under the ground should be made rather than spreading the station out sideways. Your Petitioner considers the Promoter should be required to consider the Double Deck Down scheme as an alternative design.
14. 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 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 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 Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

Signed MALCOLM BILLINGS 

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PETITION OF MALCOLM BILLINGS

AGAINST &c.

