

IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against the Bill - On Merits – Praying to 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 JACQUELINE WESLEY

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 4 Richmond House, Park Village East, NW1 3SX. This is with the Euston CFA for HS2. Your Petitioner, a widow aged sixty-nine, has lived for two years, alone, in her flat. She is a tenant of Peabody Trust, previously of The Crown Estate. Your Petitioner moved to Richmond House after thirty years residence in another flat on the Peabody Estate due to escalating anti-social behaviour in that area. Richmond House, built c1960, on sheet 1-02 of Parliamentary Notice C271/002245 of 25th November 2013. Richmond House is property 122 and the line of deviation takes in the majority of its front garden. Richmond House is within 15 metres of land to be taken for the satellite construction compound on the opposite side of Park Village East, it is very close to the ramp to be constructed for vehicle access to this compound. Construction traffic through Park Village East is estimated to reach 470 HGV movements per day, including 24 hour working.

8. As a single woman Your Petitioner will not be able to come home safely after dark by taxi and be dropped off outside my home during the 2 year period when Park Village East is closed. She would have to walk from Albany Street through the Peabody Estate and this is unacceptable.

9. Your Petitioner has age-related spinal degeneration which renders carrying heavy shopping difficult and painful. She needs her groceries and other shopping to be delivered to her home. When the road is closed this will not be possible.

10. Your Petitioner and her interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.

11. The bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take 10 years to complete and will include vehicular movements, the creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, and 24 hour working. In addition to all this inevitable noise and disturbance two bridges which lead to Public Transport and the shops of Camden Town are to be demolished (Granby Terrace and Mornington Street Bridge) and the bridge in Hampstead Road will be considerably narrowed while being rebuilt. This work will create obstacles in the way of Your Petitioner's daily life and result in sleep deprivation and a much reduced quality of life. Your Petitioner objects to the powers that are proposed to be provided by the Bill to the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker and respectfully submit that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Limited, the Secretary of State and/or the Nominated Undertaker must review the construction strategy for the project and its related works by considering their cumulative impacts on communities. And they need to suggest

necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction employed.

12. There are other clauses and provisions in 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 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, 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 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 Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed:



Jacqueline Wesley