

Against – on merits – Praying to be heard [in Person] [by Agent] [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 PETE ASTOR

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's property is at 31 Holmrook, 205 Eversholt Street, NW1 1DD. Your Petitioner moved into the area in 1997 and became a leaseholder in 2003. Your petitioner's property will not be demolished as a result of the Bill but it is located within 200 metres of those blocks that are proposed to be demolished as well as the station works themselves and will therefore be located immediately adjacent to one of the construction sites for the Scheme. Your Petitioners' property is also very near to roads which will be used by construction traffic during the construction of the Scheme
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 a very wide range of major disruption.  
There will be a very large amount of noise as a result of lorries and people going to and from the site, both during the day and if there is 24hour working.  
The air quality of where your petitioner will live will be adversely affected: there will be air pollution due to building works.  
Visually, the area your petitioner lives in will be adversely affected, making the experience of day-to-day existence being like living on a building site.  
The combination of these elements will cause your petitioner to experience physical health issues as a result of the pollution and mental health issues, as a result of the severe day-to-day noise and disruption causing severe sleep deprivation, anxiety and reduction in the quality of life.
10. 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 to be given 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 activities by putting weight on their cumulative impacts on area communities, and come forward

with necessary changes arising from that review before works packages design and tendering strategies have been finalised. Having accepted the will of parliament that the bill will go ahead your petitioner expects it is reasonable for HS2 to undertake to do the following things: To use the quietest possible electric, hybrid and zero emissions vehicles throughout the site.

That work should only take place through 24 hours in exceptional circumstances and if this was to happen in a particular phase HS2 should offer your petitioner similar accommodation in the area at HS2's expense.

That HS2 should have a full programme of freight coordination in place, so that there are only deliveries of materials at the least disruptive times for residents.

That HS2 will pay mitigation or compensation for the discomfort and distress they have caused.

That HS2 will install air filters and double glazing to your petitioner's property to minimise air pollution and noise.

That HS2 also need to agree to undertake more rigorous tests of the impact of the works and your petitioner wants to reserve my position until the new design is agreed and in place.

That, as HS2 cannot know the extent of the disruption to your petitioner, he wants HS2 to agree to undertake to buy his property at a minimum of 25% over the pre-blight market value (to take into account the costs of moving as well as the personal upheaval) once the scheme is underway, should your petitioner find the disruption unbearable, and taking into account that there is no way that your petitioner (or HS2) can know the extent of this until the scheme is underway.

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 [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 Pete Astor

Signed Pete Astor

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON  
- WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF PETE ASTOR

AGAINST &c.

Pete Astor,