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IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON -
WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF CHRISTOPHER MCLAVERTY AND SARA WEBSTER

AGAINST &c.

Christopher McLaverty and Sara Webster
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Primrose Hill
London NW1 8LB

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HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on merits – Praying to be heard in Person

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

THE HUMBLE PETITION of Christopher McLaverty and Sara Webster

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 live in 117 Gloucester Avenue, Primrose Hill, London NW1 with their three children (two of whom are school age). They have lived in Gloucester Avenue for nearly 20 years. Your Petitioners' property will not be demolished but is located within 200 metres of those blocks that are proposed to be demolished and will therefore be located immediately adjacent to one of the construction sites for the Scheme. Gloucester Avenue is highlighted in Camden Council's Impacts Map as being "land potentially required during construction". Your Petitioners' property is also facing a road 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 lorry movements, creation of dust and noise, poor air quality, adverse visual impact and 24 hour working leading to sleep deprivation and health issues.
The Bill is causing uncertainty which is already impacting property valuations and impeding property sales in Primrose Hill. This may continue for well over ten years and cause material destruction of the value of the Petitioners' property. Their house is the Petitioners' only significant asset.
The increase in traffic due to construction work will make road travel in the area significantly more congested impacting on the Petitioners' ability to gain access to their property in a timely manner, their access to local amenities and will adversely affecting one of the Petitioner's commute to and from work as well as the journeys of their children to and from school.

10. Your Petitioners object 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. To overcome the Petitioners' concerns with the Scheme the Petitioners would like HS2 primary London station to be at Old Oak Common in preference to Euston. In addition, the Petitioners' would like all construction materials and equipment to be transported in and out of the area by rail rather than road. Lastly, the Petitioners' would like the uncertainty, which is adversely affecting property valuations and sales, due to the open-endedness of the Scheme to be removed.
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 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.

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