

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013 - 2014

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON TO WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on merit – 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 Mary Swan

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 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 is Mary Swan (hereinafter referred to as 'the Petitioner'), of 14 The Manor House, Avenue Road, Leamington Spa, CV31 3ND. The Petitioner has lived in Warwickshire for twenty years and been an active member of communities across the county as part of the education service and socially as a village resident although now linked to the nearby town of Leamington Spa for practical reasons. The Petitioner has retired from teaching but works part-time for Age UK Warwickshire across Southam, Leamington, Warwick, Kenilworth, Stratford-upon-Avon and all surrounding villages and is central to the well-being of two generations of her family including looking after her two year old granddaughter at the extended family home in Long Itchington.
8. Whilst Your Petitioner's address in Leamington is not directly on the route of HS2, because of the continuing and close ties with Long Itchington and active involvement with the extended family there together with the nature of the Petitioner's employment which involves extensive travel around South Warwickshire, Your Petitioner's rights and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which Your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. The immediate area Your Petitioner identifies with and calls home has always had a rural and close community feel with an agricultural tradition, varied habitats supporting significant bio-diversity including ancient woodland and areas of special scientific interest as well as a rich historical heritage. Everything that Your Petitioner values about this is seriously threatened with irrevocable damage as HS2 cuts through the area at maximum speed and disrupts virtually all the routes in an around Long Itchington as well as destroying specific, sensitive areas such as Cubbington Woods. Your Petitioner had looked forward to introducing her two year old granddaughter to the natural world locally and discussing ideas of our interdependence with the environment and the need to protect and nurture it for practical as well as aesthetic reasons; she is already very observant, a keen bird spotter and regularly walks anything up to three miles a day exploring the environs. The Bill in its current form will make this impossible. Also, The Bill includes powers for the Secretary of State and the Nominated Undertaker to do construction works which are estimated to take ten years to complete and will include lorry movements, the creation of dust, noise and vibration, poor air quality and twenty-four hour working all of which impact on the Petitioner's capacity to work, family life and health. Your Petitioner and her extended family are particularly dependent on the A423, A425, B4455 and B4453 for travel to work, education, shopping, getting to the doctor or hospital in an emergency and all will be significantly disrupted. Your Petitioner is devastated and demoralised and experiencing

significant symptoms of stress and depression by the lack of protection for the environment, local communities and individual interests.

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 submits that the Bill should be amended or undertakings should be required so that HS2 Ltd, 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, further, that they need to suggest necessary changes from the results of that review before works design and construction strategies have been finalised or construction contractors employed.
11. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.

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 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 Petitioner 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 every pray, &c.

Signed MARY SWAN

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IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF

[Handwritten signature]

Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

CONTACT DETAILS:

JOE RUKIN

