

**IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-2014**

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

AGAINST - on Merits - By Counsel, etc.

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

THE HUMBLE PETITION of Margaret Stobo

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House intituled “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 Secretary Patrick 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, 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 of 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 Margaret Stobo, who is a 75-year-old pensioner, is a leaseholder living at flat 4 Wellesley House, Churchway, London NW1 1LL. Your Petitioner's home is not due to be demolished as a result of the Bill but her flat is at the Eversholt Street end of the block, within yards of Euston Station. Her main concern is the inevitable huge increase in pollution of all types. Wellesley House will be virtually on an island surrounded by construction traffic routes. In an area already heavily polluted your petitioner does all she can to avoid this by not walking on busy roads. During HS2 works Wellesley House will virtually be on an island surrounded by construction traffic routes & the toxic levels of NO2 and particulates will be unavoidable.
8. Your petitioner is also very concerned for the many children who live on the estate & who now have a safe and secure playground in view of their parents' windows. They will lose this facility as it is due to become a 'satellite compound'. The effects on young and old alike bode ill for the NHS.
9. Your Petitioner is keen not to be dismissed as a Nimby – she would like to add that she very much values the English countryside and is a frequent walker in, among other areas, the Chilterns. She objects very much to the proposed spoiling of the countryside and specifically to the destruction of many areas of irreplaceable ancient woodland.
10. Your Petitioner and their interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
11. 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 which would have a detrimental effect on my work and quality of life.
12. 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. Your Petitioner requests that if the scheme is to go ahead that she is offered a relocation in the same neighbourhood where she has been living for some years and the same distance from where she is at present from her family and place of work.
13. 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 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 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 Petitioner will ever pray, etc.

Signed Margaret Stobo

A rectangular box with a dashed border, used to redact the signature of Margaret Stobo. A small circular mark is visible at the bottom center of the box.

**IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2013-2014**

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF Margaret Stobo

AGAINST, By Counsel, etc.