

01IN PARLIAMENT*(4 copies, £20 cheque, 2 covers)***HOUSE OF COMMONS****SESSION 2013–14****HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL****PETITION**

Against – 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 DOROTHEA JOY HACKMAN AND CHRISTOPHER CHARLES POWELL

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 Petitioners are Dorothea Joy Hackman and Christopher Charles Powell, Basement Flat, 39 Mornington Terrace, London NW1 7RS. We have lived in this flat for 23.5 years, working hard and long at rewarding but frequently stressful careers in further education and the trade union movement, in order to pay our mortgage and become the outright owners of our property. Here we have brought up our son who now works as a full-time teacher, and having just retired, we were looking forward at last to the quiet enjoyment of a pleasant life in our home. This involves involvement in our local community and public duty such as school governorship, as well as the particular enjoyment of sunrises and sunsets viewed across the open space of the railway cutting; and twice daily walks to Regents Park and local bookshops.
8. Your Petitioners rights, property and interests are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioners object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioners are members of the Camden Cutting Group, and fully support the petition that has been deposited by our local group.
10. In particular your Petitioners wish to see at least the following mitigations that will protect some of their rights and interests.
11. Protection of the value of the property your Petitioners have invested their whole livelihoods in, for instance by a property bond. In the event our son relocates to Australia, we may wish to move to be close to any future grandchildren. This should be our choice, yet it will be difficult to sell a property right in the middle of 18 years of relentless construction noise and pollution night and day.
12. Individual household mitigation funds so that your Petitioners can decide when the noise and dirt become intolerable, and we need a break away in a nearby hotel to get some sleep and peace for a few weeks. Double glazing will not save us from the "temporary" disturbance of ten years of constant

heavy construction immediately on our road outside our home, followed by a further eight years of development over the station and tracks from Euston to Parkway.

13. Use of rail rather than road to move spoil and machinery - Camden traffic cannot take hundreds of extra lorries every day. Tourists are important to the economy, yet, for example, how will they reach the zoo? Even the zoo coach parking areas are being taken over as construction compounds. Your Petitioners seek control of the construction lorries to 5 miles per hour, restricted to daytime and non-residential routes so that we have safe local access to amenities. No construction compounds in our street as they can easily use the main one in Hampstead Road and the space in the cutting. Local trees to be replaced, ideally with birches and limes rather than the ubiquitous hayfever inducing London plane trees.
14. That we should have a day a week of respite from all construction. Building HS2 will be a long haul for our community, and knowing that there would be a quiet day to relax and read at least once a week would help us to weather the ordeal.
15. HS2 should justify case by case, and not be blanket exempted from core working hours and noise and pollution thresholds. There should be fines set in advance for every breach so that HS2 considers the local community as well as the convenience of railways and construction. The fine money should go into a Local Community Benefit Fund enabling the community to determine what additional measures would help us survive a lifetime of construction.
16. The hoardings protecting Mornington Terrace residents from the noise and dust and dirt of construction need to have enhanced acoustic performance and bespoke design. Serious construction for a ten year period cannot be described as a temporary disturbance. There should be recognition in the documentation of the special nature of building in the heart of a big city, and thresholds set realistically lower to take account of existing noise and pollution.
17. In addition your Petitioners make the following points: Consultation has not been genuine, information is insufficient, compensation is inadequate and inequitable, our area is badly treated in the HS2 proposals, both property and community. The country will receive poor value for money from the HS2 proposals, the combined and cumulative effects of noise, vibration, pollution, traffic congestion, visual intrusion, road and bridge closures and night time working for a ten year period have not been assessed. The quality of life in our community is eroded by the land grab of open spaces. HS2 have not

adequately investigated tunnelling and double deck down options to keep the same footprint and avoid rebuilding bridges and retaining walls,

18. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioners respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioners, should not be allowed to pass into law.

19. 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 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 Petitioners in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

Signed:



DOROTHEA JOY HACKMAN



CHRISTOPHER CHARLES POWELL

IN PARLIAMENT

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HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION OF DOROTHEA JOY HACKMAN AND CHRISTOPHER CHARLES POWELL

Against the Bill – On Merits – By Counsel &c

NAME: Dorothea Hackman and Chris Powell

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