

Adam Assenza
 OEA Project Manager
 Surface Transportation Board
 Docket No. FD 36815
 395 E Street SW
 Washington, DC 20423
 Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Rail Line Near My Home

Dear Mr. Assenza,

I am reaching out to you with strong intentions to oppose the proposed Texas Materials Group rail line in Burnet and Lampasas counties, as a concerned landowner whose properties are at risk and enroute of this proposed rail line. Not only would this proposed railway affect the numerous landowners within its route, but wildlife, environmental, economic impacts and concerns are plentiful.

On a personal note, as a 460 acre hill country landowner, with three ranches and family homestead being affected by this proposal, with railway on each property, yes, each property is in the proposed plan, not to mention proposed railway being approximately 876.67' from our home and 720.57' from our campground for deer leases, this is devastating news.

While I care deeply for the impact this proposed plan would have on the community as a whole, I do want to note some specific causes of concern regarding our properties specifically as listed below:

Key Points of concern on our Properties:

- Proposed Railway is in close proximity to historic Scott Hollow
- Natural springs, Sulphur Creek and Mesquite Creek run through our properties
- Railway would run directly over Sulphur Creek on one of our properties disrupting the natural breeding habitat for the Guadalupe Bass (State Fish)
- Golden-Cheeked Warbler and other endangered or threatened birds and species are present on our properties
- Historic cemetery site, Thornal Cemetery, dates back to 1900 is located about 50 feet from one of the proposed routes on one of our properties
- Proposed plan would cut through one of our Bermuda fields where we cultivate hay and run cattle, without access to approximately 1/3 of the field
- How will we ensure trespassers are not entering our land through these railways?
- How will we access the other parts of our land if a railway is implemented and therefore dividing up our property?
- Will it be the responsibility of the landowners to create new roadways on our land to be able to access the other side of our properties?
- Will it be the responsibility of the landowners to fence up along the rail way to ensure our livestock do not wander off, into, or get hit on the railway?
- What will happen in the case of an emergency and the train is stopped or passing through and our family or emergency services needs to get through?

These are just a few of my concerns and questions regarding the impact of this proposed plan. Our land is located on both Sulphur and Mesquite Creeks where we have created a sanctuary for wildlife and this is our family's legacy! My family has worked for almost two centuries preserving our land for wildlife, hunting, ranching, and farming with the continuous goal of being good stewards of the land for many generations to follow.

When I think of "Texas", I think of our family and our land I have been so fortunate to have been born into. If you could personally see our land, I believe you would feel this way too. This railway would be absolutely detrimental both personally and environmentally and I strongly urge your consideration of all involved and seek your support in opposing this plan.

Thank you for your time and interest in this matter.

Tracy Snell Mack
512-433-0926