

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed railroad project that would pass through Burnet and Lampasas counties. Having visited multiple industrial sites in recent weeks, I have been reminded of the immense noise pollution and environmental disruption caused by such infrastructure. Many of these sites are tied to the quarry and rock crusher operations, and while some community leaders argue that these industries benefit the local economy, the long-term consequences far outweigh any short-term gains.

The presence of these projects is eroding the very charm that makes our community special. If we continue down this path, we risk not only the degradation of our environment but also the loss of diverse economic growth opportunities that could sustain Burnet and surrounding areas for generations. While large corporations stand to profit from this rail project, the burden (both financial and personal) will fall squarely on the residents who call this place home.

Beyond the monetary costs, the impact on local families, businesses, farms, ranches, and hunting grounds will be devastating. The disruption caused by both construction and ongoing rail operations will force many to make drastic adjustments, some of which will be impossible to overcome. Properties will be divided, cutting off access to vital resources and rendering some operations unworkable. Even the simple yet necessary act of re-fencing land along the rail line could pose an insurmountable financial burden for many landowners.

Furthermore, the idea that "market value" compensation is a fair trade for this upheaval is misleading. Market value does not account for generational land stewardship, the sentimental and historical significance of these properties, or the lack of desire to sell in the first place. My own family has cared for land in this region for over 100 years, spanning five generations. Our plans to continue managing and preserving it for future generations are now under threat.

This project is not in the best interest of our community, our state, or our nation. Any argument that attempts to position it as such fails to acknowledge the severe, irreversible damage it will cause to local livelihoods, traditions, and the natural beauty of this area. I strongly urge decision-makers to reconsider this proposal and seek alternatives that do not place the interests of corporations above the well-being of our residents.

Sincerely,

Corder Maples