

March 26,2025

Adam Assenza, OEA Project Manager

Surface Transportation Board (STB)

Docket No. FD36815

395 E Street SW

Washington, D>C> 20423

Dear Mr. Assenza:

Recently I learned that Texas Materials Group, Inc. is seeking authority from the STB to construct and operate a new rail line in Burnet and Lampasas counties. This proposed line, if implemented, will seriously negatively impact large numbers of Texas families. Many of those have already contacted the STB by petition and letters describing negative environmental impact, safety concerns, economic devastation, detrimental quality of life issues, absence of public notification, and removal of individual property rights.

My family is one of those potentially devastated by this proposed line. I currently operate a small ranch located in both Burnet and Lampasas counties on which I raise sheep, goats, and hay. At present I have approximately 200 animals. It is currently lambing season with more baby lambs being born each day. My largest field would be divided approximately one third by two thirds by the proposed rail line spitting off most of the land in Lampasas County from the portion in Burnet County. There would be no way to get to the land in Lampasas County without crossing the railroad. The railroad right of way would have to be fenced. Even if the company would put in a rail crossing, I cannot imagine trying to get a herd of sheep or goats across the tracks and into the other pasture without having them scatter up and down the right of way.

Currently rail lines exist so trains could go from Burnet to Cedar Park to Pflugerville, to Temple, to Lampasas. Is it further than a new straight line from Burnet to Lampasas would be? Of course, but the question should be is it right to disrupt and damage the lives

of so many people in order that this company can shortcut the route used to haul quarry materials and thus increase their profits.

Incidentally I noticed on the STB website that you offer arbitration and mediation and other avenues to avoid costly litigation. In this case, the simplest way to avoid litigation is to deny this project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project before the board.

Sincerely,

William N. Kirby

208 Kirby Lane

Lampasas, Tx 76550

Cc Senator John Cornyn

Senator Ted Cruz

Congressman John Carter

Governor Gregg Abbott

Tx Ag Commissioner Sid Miller

State Senator Pete Flores

State Representative Ellen Troxclair

Judge Randall Hoyer

Commissioner Damon Beierle