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3/18/2025

Adam Assenza

Surface Transportation Board

Docket No. FD 36815

395 E Street SW

Washington, DC 20423

Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding Texas Materials Rail Proposal and Lack of Transparency

Dear Adam Assenza,

I am writing to formally submit a complaint regarding the proposed Texas Materials rail line in Burnet County, Texas. This project has raised serious concerns among local residents, property owners, and environmental advocates due to its lack of transparency, potential safety hazards, and environmental impact.

Lack of Transparency and Improper Approval Process

An employee of the company that sold the rail rights to Texas Materials has come forward stating that this project has been in development for over two years without public notice or input. This individual further revealed that the process was conducted through non-

transparent, backdoor dealings, depriving affected landowners and community members of their right to participate in discussions regarding the project's impact. Such an approach undermines public trust and raises serious legal and ethical concerns regarding the approval process.

Safety Hazards and Property Risks

The proposed rail line is set to pass less than 100 yards from my home, where I live with my special needs child. The noise, vibrations, and potential hazards associated with train operations pose significant health and safety risks to my family. Furthermore, the employee disclosed that Texas Materials does not have sufficient safety protocols in place—specifically stating that if cattle do not move off the tracks, they will simply be hit. This blatant disregard for safety raises concerns about pedestrian risks, livestock fatalities, and potential accidents affecting local residents.

Environmental and Property Impact

Beyond the safety concerns, the rail project will negatively impact property values, local wildlife, and protected species such as the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler. The planned route threatens critical habitats and violates conservation efforts that have been in place for years.

Request for STB Review and Intervention

Given the lack of transparency, safety hazards, and environmental concerns, I respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board:

1. Launch a formal investigation into the approval process of this project, particularly regarding the allegations of non-public negotiations and lack of transparency.
2. Require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before any further progress is made.
3. Hold public hearings to ensure that affected residents and stakeholders have an opportunity to voice their concerns.

4. Enforce safety regulations and mitigation measures to protect residents, livestock, and local wildlife from harm.

I urge the STB to take immediate action to review and reconsider this project in light of the new information provided. This situation exemplifies why transparency, public involvement, and proper safety protocols are essential in approving railway developments.

Please confirm receipt of this complaint and advise on the next steps regarding how I may further participate in the review process. I appreciate your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Ahr

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