

March 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I was recently made aware of the railway proposal through Burnet County (specifically through Lake Victor), and wanted to express my concerns.

I am the daughter of David and Kristy Drake, who I know have also shared their concern and disapproval of the project. My family has lived in Lake Victor since before I was born. My mother moved there in high school, where my grandparents and great-grandparents had owned land since the 80's. My father's family also moved there in the early 90's, and my parents met at the Lake Victor Baptist Church. Growing up, I had both sets of grandparents living on either side of my parents' house. Jim and Wendy Davis still reside there, on one side. For the entirety of my life, I have watched my family work extremely hard to create a beautiful home and property there. I spent the majority of the first 22 years of my life living on that property. I moved away in 2019, first to California, and then to Tennessee, where I have resided for the past year.

Over the last five and one-half years, returning to my parents' home has been a chance for me to escape the hustle and chaos of the city, a chance for me to breathe and recharge. I have traveled a lot over the last several years, all over the US and to a few other countries, and Lake Victor remains the only place in the world that provides a sense of solitude and serenity for me. It is the only place that will ever be my true home.

It is a dream of mine, and my younger sister, Rustyn, to someday (hopefully within the next 5-10 years), return to my family's land and build homes of our own close to family. My aunt, Jimmie Campbell, and her husband and two small children, are also going to begin building their dream home, in between my parents' and grandparents' houses, sometime this-coming summer. With the growth of Austin, and influx of people branching out more toward Burnet County, my biggest fear over the last several years has been that there will be much more growth in what

was once our small, peaceful town, and even more-so, that it will eventually swallow Lake Victor as well. It is disheartening to think that my parents, who chose to live in a quiet, rural area 30+ years ago, could ever face the possible threat of any surrounding development. It is also disheartening for people in their late 20's, who in the current economy, have a very difficult time obtaining land or even owning a home anymore, and the one chance my sister and I might have at living in a quiet and secluded place could be squashed before ever making our dream come true. This land is our legacy, and the legacy of our possible future children, and those to follow. This land means more to me than anything else in my existence and I can't imagine life without it. It is ALL we have.

It makes me sick to my stomach knowing what is going on right now with this proposal, and the effects it will have on 118+ homes and properties, not including the surrounding properties who will undoubtedly be affected as well. I have concerns such as decreased property values, for properties that have been in families for generations; concerns for safety issues, such as derailment only hundreds of feet from peoples' HOUSES.; concerns for the beautiful wildlife that fills the Hill Country and greatly contributes to its beauty; concerns for peoples' livestock and the deer that they hunt to provide food for their families year-round; concerns for the children and elderly, who in a medical emergency might not be able to make it to town quickly enough, or have an ambulance get to them. The list of concerns goes on and on...but the worst part is that there are no benefits to the people who live nearby, whatsoever.

My greatest concern, personally, is the risk of fire. My family's property is a quarter mile from the railway (you would be able to see it from their yard). Both the Burnet and Lampasas fire departments are 18-20 minutes away from Lake Victor (not including train traffic!). Based on my family's property location, if a fire was to start from the railway, and spread down County Road 205, and across the clearing in between, toward the front of the property, it would be impossible for them, or my grandparents next door, to drive out of the property. There is hardly a time when there is not a burn ban in effect in Burnet County, and Central Texas seems to be in a never-ending drought, with very long and dry summers. A fire would consume my family's property, and everything they've ever worked for and owned, in a matter of minutes, most likely before anyone would even have a chance to call the fire department. That is 10-12 lives right there on that property alone. I can't imagine the destruction that would occur to those whose houses are right against the railway.

Every single person I've seen that is going to be affected by this railway is opposed. Every single person is afraid of their entire lives being uprooted by this train--and at the expense of a foreign company, who will be giving nothing back to these people, who will only suffer as Texas Materials makes even more money. It is outrageous to think that this could happen to so many peoples' land. I would imagine that if a Texas-based company was to try and propose this same thing on Irish land, on properties that had been in families for hundreds of years, the outcome would be quite different.

Lastly, I would just like to add the DESPICABLE claim that, "The project is located in an arid region of Texas that does not contain environmentally sensitive areas to note." How DARE Texas Materials make this statement? How DARE they decide that for those who know how untrue this is, and who chose to live there for its beauty and bountiful ecosystem? How DARE they come in and ruin the land that means so much to these people--who deserve to continue living a peaceful life away from the city--and threaten their well-being? It is utterly disgraceful what this company is willing to do, just to make its pockets a little fuller.

Shame on you, "Texas" Materials.

You absolutely do NOT have my support.

Sincerely,

Reney Drake