

IN PARLIAMENT

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON - WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

PETITION

Against – on merits – Praying to be heard by Counsel, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of ALEXANDER ROBERT RUKIN

SHEWETH as follows:-

1. A Bill (hereinafter referred to as “the Bill”) has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House entitled “A Bill to make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Water Orton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street in Birmingham; and for connected purposes”
2. The Bill is presented by Mr Secretary McLoughlin, supported by the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary Theresa May, Secretary Vince Cable, Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, Secretary Eric Pickles, Secretary Owen Paterson, Secretary Edward Davey, and Mr Robert Goodwill.
3. Clauses 1 to 36 set out the Bill's objectives in relation to the construction and operation of the railway mentioned in paragraph 1 above. They include provision for the construction of works, highways and road traffic matters, the compulsory acquisition of land and other provisions relating to the use of land, planning permission, heritage issues, trees and noise. They include clauses

which would disapply and modify various enactments relating to special categories of land including burial grounds, consecrated land, commons and open spaces, and other matters, including overhead lines, water, building regulations and party walls, street works and the use of lorries.

4. Clauses 37 to 42 of the Bill deal with the regulatory regime for the railway.
5. Clauses 43 to 65 of the Bill set out a number of miscellaneous and general provisions, including provision for the appointment of a nominated undertaker ("the Nominated Undertaker") to exercise the powers under the Bill, transfer schemes, provisions relating to statutory undertakers and the Crown, provision about the compulsory acquisition of land for regeneration, reinstatement works and provision about further high speed railway works. Provision is also made about the application of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations.
6. The works proposed to be authorised by the Bill are specified in clauses 1 and 2 of and Schedules 1 and 2 to the Bill. They consist of scheduled works, which are described in Schedule 1 to the Bill and other works, which are described in clause 2 of and Schedules 2 and 3 to the Bill.
7. Your Petitioner is Alexander Robert Rukin. Your petitioner is subject to a joint custody order and as such lives half of the time with his father and grandmother on Caesar Road, in Kenilworth and lives half of the time with his mother, stepfather and half-brother on Grovesfield Crescent in Balsall Common, which is directly opposite a proposed HS2 viaduct. Your Petitioner attends Clinton Primary School on Caesar Road in Kenilworth, is a member of the 2nd Balsall Common Cubs which meets on Station Road in Balsall Common, and plays tennis for the Kenilworth Tennis Club, located on Crackley Lane in Kenilworth. As such, Your Petitioner will be subject to many different effects of HS2 in various aspects of his life.
8. Your Petitioner and their rights, interests and future rights to property are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner object for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
9. Your Petitioner thinks HS2 is a stupid idea and shouldn't be allowed to happen when they keep saying on the news that the Government can't afford lots of other stuff.
10. One thing which Your Petitioner does not understand is why HS2 Ltd have got all this money when his school keeps having to ask parents for money for stuff the school needs.
11. Your Petitioner is really worried that he won't be able to get to sleep at night when at his Mums house, because it will be going really fast on a big bridge

past his bedroom window. Your Petitioner is less worried that trains might wake him up too early in the morning, as he likes getting up early, but thinks his Mum won't like that as she is not good in the mornings, especially before her second cup of coffee.

12. Your Petitioner does not understand why HS2 Ltd have said Phase 1 will only go through 19 ancient woodlands, when the Woodland Trust say this is 27. Your petitioner is of the opinion that is your drew a line through 27 blobs on a piece of paper, even someone in reception class would be able to count them and get it right, or at least get closer to 27 than the people getting paid lots of money at HS2 Ltd have done. Your Petitioner does not understand why these people have not been sacked, and would be quite willing to help them with their counting as he is really good at maths. Your Petitioner is extra upset about this because the list of ancient woodlands HS2 Ltd gave to the Woodlands Trust did not include Crackley Woods, which is his favourite.
13. Your Petitioner loves going to Crackley Woods. Your Petitioner especially loves climbing trees, not just at Crackley, but wherever he can find a tree he can climb. At the moment he likes going to Crackley Woods watch the tadpoles swimming around, and going back to see how much bigger they have got. In winter, Your Petitioner likes going to Crackley Woods when it is getting dark to see the bats, but sometimes gets a bit scared if it is too dark. Your Petitioner does not understand why HS2 can cut down so many trees, when there are laws and stuff which are meant to stop that happening. Your Petitioner thinks that not cutting down trees is better than planting new ones, as lots of animals need what old trees have to live, and by the time any new trees are big enough to climb, Your Petitioner may be too old to climb them.
14. At school, Your Petitioner has been taught that we must do things that are good for the environment, so he does not understand why HS2 are allowed to do things which are bad for the environment.
15. Your Petitioners' school has been raising money to make sure kids in other countries get more clean water, and there have been lots on the news about flooding in England. As such, Your Petitioner does not understand why the HS2 people are being allowed to mess about with where the water comes from in England and do things which might mean floods are worse.
16. Your Petitioner is really happy because he has recently been chosen to play tennis in the team for Kenilworth Tennis Club. He currently goes there to three times a week, plus competitions, and is really worried that all the dust in the air when they are building HS2 will make it hard to play tennis.
17. Because Your Petitioner has to travel from his Mums house to school every day every other week, he is not looking forward to HS2 being built because it

will mean all the roads will be messed up and getting to and from school will take even longer, especially when the ford next to Kenilworth Castle is flooded. It will be even worse for going to tennis, as HS2 Ltd want to close three of the roads on the quickest way to the tennis club from his Mums house, so even when one road reopens one of the others will be shut.

18. In the school holidays, Your Petitioner regularly uses the Kenilworth Greenway to cycle between his parents' houses, and thinks there aren't many people like him who use the whole Greenway all the way from Kenilworth Common to Berkswell Station. Your Petitioner has always thought he could use this on his own when he is older, not just to travel between the houses, but to get to school from his Mums house. HS2 Ltd want to completely mess up the Greenway, by taking out 400 metres right in the middle of it, and using it for construction traffic, which will mean they cut down more trees than they have to, and they will knock down houses, which Your Petitioner does not think is fair.
19. Another option for Your Petitioner to get to school from his Mums house when he is older would be to get the train, but almost as soon as Kenilworth Station reopens, HS2 Ltd are going to mess up the trains because they will be building HS2 underneath the track in Kenilworth, and over the station at Berkswell. This will also not be helpful for both of Your Petitioners parents.
20. Both of Your Petitioners parents use Coventry Station sometimes to get to London. When the people first said they wanted HS2, they said the fast trains from Coventry to London would go down from three per hour to one per hour, which would mean Your Petitioners parents take longer to get home and might have to set off earlier in the morning, which Your Petitioner thinks is a bad thing. Because lots of people thought that having fewer trains from Coventry is a bad thing, the HS2 people are pretending they never said that would happen. But the HS2 people keeps saying they will 'free up capacity', which Your Petitioner knows must mean 'losing the trains you already have'. Your Petitioner does not understand why, when he is nine, he understands that, but grown-ups who want HS2 pretend they don't mean that.
21. Your Petitioner has been told that the people who worked out that that HS2 would be worth building have said that no-one works on trains to help cheat on their sums. Your Petitioner knows this is cheating because he has seen lots of people working on computers on trains and Your Petitioners parents both say that they work on trains. Your Petitioner does not understand why anyone is so stupid as to believe this.
22. Your Petitioner understands that HS2 will need a lot of electricity, maybe a whole power station, and has seen on the telly that we are running out of electricity. Your petitioner doesn't understand where all the new electricity will

come from, and if HS2 will need a new power station, why they haven't said that or how much money it will be.

23. The people running HS2 have said that it will be needed for people who are currently the age of Your Petitioner to get to work or have meetings. Your Petitioner thinks it would be better if the people in charge did more to make sure there are jobs for people where they actually live, instead of making them travel more, which just seems silly.
24. Your Petitioner, who started doing video conferencing at school when he was six, wonders if the old people who say we need HS2 have ever even heard of The Internet, Skype or Facetime. Even Your Petitioner's Dad uses them, and when he went to the same school, they only had one computer on a trolley for the whole school.
25. Because the people at HS2 Ltd are really, really bad at maths and make things up that aren't true, Your Petitioner is worried that HS2 will cost lots more than the people are saying. If HS2 costs more money and not enough people use it, Your Petitioner, like his classmates, will be the one paying for it in extra tax. Your Petitioner thinks it is unfair that he and his friends will have to pay more money forever for something they think isn't needed and they won't have enough money to be able to use it.
26. Your Petitioner has been told that saying things which are not true is naughty, so does not understand why the HS2 people say things that are not true and get given lots of money.
27. Your Petitioner has always thought that he would get a part-time job when he is old enough in Balsall Common or Kenilworth, but is worried that because of all the traffic problems HS2 will make that lots of shops in both towns will have to shut, because there won't be enough people coming in to spend money, and that will mean there are not as many jobs.
28. Your Petitioner thinks if HS2 has to happen, it should be put in a tunnel from the A46 to past Berkswell Station so that it doesn't mess so many things up for Your Petitioner.
29. There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioner and their rights, interests and property and for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioner.
30. For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submit that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, so far affecting your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.