

COMMACK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

February 20, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Townline Rail Terminal, LLC - Docket Number: FD 36575

Dear Honorable Oberman,

I am the president of the Commack Community Association. By now, I'm sure you have received numerous letters regarding the proposed Townline Rail Yard (Docket No. FD 36575). Our neighbors in the towns of Commack, East Northport, Fort Salonga, and Kings Park have great concerns about their quality of life.

This parcel of land and adjacent properties have a long history of deliberate illegal activities regarding zoning, and pollution. Previous fines have been minor. According to the "Toxics Targeting" website, this property has already endured nearly 150 toxic spills which has contaminated our recharge basins. Although we are concerned about noise pollution, air pollution, and an increase in truck traffic, our main concern is our drinking water. This property is a federally designated deep recharge basin of the "sole source aquifer". Long Island's drinking water.

Located across the street from the proposed Townline Rail Yard is the Covanta incinerator which is run by facility manager Kenneth Hinsch. I had a meeting with him a few weeks ago to discuss the facts on the removal and transportation of the ash to the Brookhaven landfill. He mentioned that the landfill is scheduled to close in 2024. All ash and waste will be shipped off Long Island by rail. Asked if Covanta would then ship ash to other facilities that already ship garbage via rail, the answer was "yes".

To go a step further, I met with William Flowers, manager of Winter's Brothers Waste Management which is one of the largest garbage carters on Long Island. He of course was very educated on the closure of the Brookhaven landfill and described in detail how they collect and ship garbage via rail line to Ohio. He mentioned that Winter's Brothers plans on building an enclosed facility on their existing property to handle ash which then will also be shipped by rail. Also stated that other existing companies plan on doing the same. Asked if Winter's Brothers would accept Covanta ash, he replied "Yes".

So, the land owner Toby Carlson is trying to sell a "bill of goods" to the surrounding communities that this Townline Rail Yard must be built, otherwise the community will suffer greatly. But we know better that it is nothing more than a "money grab". It's the residents opinion that our elected officials are misguided and unaware of the true impact it will have on our communities. It's clear that the Covanta ash can be shipped to other facilities without issue and the already blighted land can be left alone.

Respectfully,
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