

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

February 11, 2023

306290

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 9, 2023
Part of
Public Record

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to CarlsonCorp's proposed plan to build a railroad spur and a regional freight rail terminal on their property at 140 Old Northport Road in Kings Park, New York. Until now, the community has had no opportunity to weigh in on this plan because it was kept hidden from everyone, including the members of the community it directly and negatively impacts. Despite the fact that this plan has been in the works for almost two years, Toby Carlson owner of CarlsonCorp, Smithtown Supervisor Edward Wehrheim and Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta have kept this plan a secret and have failed to involve the community in their plans. The community only found out about this project when a story about it by David Ambro appeared in the Smithtown News in January 2023. The property where this plan is proposed is located within feet of residential homes on Meadow Glen, Glen Road, and Glen Lane in Kings Park. Additionally, it is located in close proximity to several densely populated residential neighborhoods in Fort Salonga, Northport, East Northport, Commack, Smithtown, Greenlawn and Elwood. My house is on Glen Lane, just FEET from where this freight train terminal is proposed. As an expecting mother, I am deeply concerned about the pollution that this project will produce. This freight yard will create several types of pollution: sound (horns, screeching from trains, trucks, forklifts, machinery sounds), light (site must be illuminated at night), air (diesel fumes, dust, particulate matter, etc), water (potential infiltration of the sole source aquifer) and vibrations from the freight trains moving on the tracks. It would be an absolute tragedy to have the many children who live in these neighborhoods, including my own, playing in their backyard and breathing in these toxic materials. In addition, the property is located in a federally designated deep recharge area of a sole source aquifer. If this highly sensitive area of the aquifer is compromised by the leakage of hazardous materials, it would affect the drinking water for all of Long Island. This proposes major health and environmental concerns that simply cannot be overlooked. According to CarlsonCorp's plans, the proposed freight train rail terminal would have freight trains coming and going between 10pm and 5am, while other operations related to loading toxic incinerator ash, aggregates (concrete, building materials, asphalt, etc) and

unloading commodities (new cars, lumber, etc) will take place anytime throughout the day and night.

I am a Kings Park resident who was born and raised in Kings Park. I am now starting my own family in the very neighborhood I grew up in on Glen Lane. It is utterly devastating to think that my family's health, well-being and quality of life could be so directly and negatively impacted by such a proposed project. I urge you to consider the residents, like myself, in the many neighboring communities that this will affect. This location is completely inappropriate for such industrial business as it is highly residential. Please consider the severity of the situation, as our families' lives depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Melissa Vernice

19 Glen Lane

Kings Park, NY 11754

CC: Parties of Record