



**Protecting Our Quality Of Life
For Generations To Come**

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March 20, 2023
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Public Record

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

March 19, 2023

Dear Chairman Oberman,

Townline Association is assisting residents with the public comment process. Attached are letters to be included for your consideration. In accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 1104.12, I have cc'd the parties of record on this correspondence.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Henninger

Linda Henninger
Townline Association
Lh.townline@gmail.com

Cc: Justin J. Marks
Dominick Vernice
Edward R. Wehrheim
Nicholas Fusco & Elizabeth Fusco
Townline Association
Commack Community Association
Philip P. Russo
Fort Salonga Association
Melissa Vernice

Kim Zubrinic, D.O.
33 Orchard Drive
Fort Salonga, NY 11768
Email: kzubrinic@live.com
March 6, 2023

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD 36575

Honorable Oberman,

I am writing to protest the proposed construction and operation of a new rail line by Townline Rail Terminal, an affiliate of Carlson Corp., Inc in the hamlet of Kings Park, Long Island, New York. Carlson Corp. intends to convert its acreage into an organic waste processing facility. The purpose of this proposed new rail line is to feed organic waste to the site. The property is located in a federally designated deep recharge area of a sole source aquifer. The site will also accommodate 161 freight cars and 50 tractor trailers. The freight trains will also be hauling incinerated ash, aggregates such as asphalt, concrete, building materials, etc. Incinerated ash and other commodities carried into and out of the freight yard will be transported by trucks to surrounding merchants/businesses.

I am a resident of Fort Salonga and a board certified Internal Medicine physician with extensive pulmonary experience. I reside approximately 1/4 mile from the proposed rail line and freight yard. The proposed new rail line will be constructed as close as 500 feet from some residential homes in Kings Park and Fort Salonga. The new rail line will also affect neighboring towns of Commack, East Northport, Smithtown, Greenlawn and Elwood.

Carlson Corp has failed to involve the community in its plans. And, most egregious, our elected officials, Smithtown Supervisor Edward Wehrheim and Suffolk County Legislator Robert Trotta have known about this plan for over one year and have not notified the community. In fact, this plan has been intentionally concealed from the community with the purpose of averting organized community opposition. Residents only found out in January 2023 when a story in the Smithtown news was written by Dave Ambro.

The new rail line will operate through several densely populated communities with families, schools, play yards, ballfields, hospitals, and nursing homes. Therefore, children, elderly and infirm will be especially impacted by this rail line, organic waste facility and freight yard. The adverse health consequences of diesel exhaust particles, noise pollution, incinerated ash fly and water contamination from toxic byproducts of incinerated waste have been well documented. Diesel exhaust contains more than 40 toxic air contaminants. The immediate effects include cough, eye irritation, throat and nose irritation, airway hypersensitivity and asthma exacerbations. Children, elderly and those with underlying pulmonary issues are more susceptible. The long term health consequences include pulmonary fibrosis and lung cancer. In 1998 the results of the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) comprehensive health assessment of diesel exhaust found that long term exposure to diesel exhaust particles poses the highest cancer risk of any toxic air contaminant evaluated by OEHHA.

Diesel locomotive noise reaches a decibel level of 85dB at close proximity and horn blasts can reach decibel levels of 96dB to 110dB. The WHO has documented seven categories of adverse health effects of noise pollution. These include hearing impairment, interference with spoken communication, sleep disturbances, cardiovascular disturbances, disturbances in mental health and negative social behavior and annoyance. These effects begin to be seen with long term daily exposure at noise levels above 65dB or acute exposure to noise levels above 80 to 85dB. Children who live in noisy environments have been shown to have elevated blood pressures and elevated levels of stress-induced hormones.

Research shows adverse health outcomes in populations near waste incinerators, including cancers and reproductive dysfunction.

My home is located 1/4 mile from the expansive industrial site on Townline Road in Commack/Kings Park that is the proposed site of the Carlson Corp. Waste Management facility and freight yard. This site includes the Huntington (Covanta) incinerator which spews toxic and malodorous sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, bisphenols, fluorinated compounds, heavy metals and other toxic byproducts of waste incineration into our community on a daily basis. A plethora of other pollutant producing businesses including concrete crushing, asphalt production and sand mining industries are also located at this industrial complex. The site also includes several capped landfills with methane venting systems. Additional sources of pollutants that me and my family are exposed to include the Northport Power Plant and medical waste incinerators from Northport VA and St Catherine's Hospital which are located within a five mile radius of my home. The approval of an organic waste management facility, with the potential of leakage of hazardous materials into the aquifer, will contaminate the drinking water of surrounding communities and all of Long Island. Furthermore, the approval of the new rail line requires a change in zoning from light industry to heavy industry setting a precedent for future heavy industries in the area. My family and the residents of Fort Salonga and neighboring communities are already unduly exposed to a plethora of toxins. The approval of a diesel freight train line and an organic waste management facility on this industrial site will cause a significant adverse burden on my health, the health of my family and the health of the community as a whole. In addition, the increased truck traffic on local streets carrying incinerated ash and other commodities will reduce the quality of life of local residents. A heavy industrial zone in the heart of our densely populated communities will not only negatively impact the health and quality of life of our residents but also cause a depreciation of our home values. Based on the points I outlined above I urge you to oppose the re zoning of the industrial complex in Kings Park, NY and prevent the construction of the organic waste facility and freight rail line in our community.

Concerned citizen,
Kim Zubrinic, D.O.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Zubrinic, D.O.', written over a faint circular stamp.

Marlene N Kasman. PhD

March 18, 2023
163 Town Line Road
East Northport, NY 11731

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD 36575

Dear Honorable Martin J Oberman:

I am a clinical psychologist who lives and has a private practice on Town Line Road, less than a mile from the proposed railroad spur and regional freight terminal at 140 Old Northport Road in Kings Park. (The Docket number is FD 36575.) I have lived and practiced here for over 50 years. I enjoy our beautiful treed property and have enhanced our property over the years. My intent is to live here for the rest of my life.

I am very disturbed and opposed to the above-mentioned proposal for many reasons. I am concerned about the impact on our air quality which will cause terrible health risks. The trains will be hauling toxic materials day and night. There will be significant fumes, air pollution, unbearable noise and traffic hazards which will affect nearby schools, play grounds, nursing homes and residents.

I implore you not to allow this dangerous Rail Terminal in our lovely residential area.

Thank you for your consideration of this crucial problem.

Sincerely,

Marlene N Kasman, PhD

PHONE 631 368-5566 E MAIL DRMKASMAN@YAHOO.COM

March 17, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Attn: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Honorable Martin J. Oberman:

I write to you today regarding Carlsoncorp's proposed plan to build a railroad spur in my local community, which will be addressed in Docket No. FD_36575. To say that I am a concerned resident is an understatement.

Moving to this community over 20 years ago was a place of suburban serenity and safety for those of us moving out of the city environment. We were thrilled to raise our young families in an area free of constant noise, disruption and pollution. The proposed railroad spur is a stone's throw from my home in Kings Park, New York. The potential detrimental effects on those living in this surrounding area are endless. Hardworking residents purchased homes in this area only for the threat of depreciating property value should this plan come to fruition. Not to mention, our property taxes continue to rise and place a burden upon us. Yet, zoning is being proposed to change this area to a Heavy Industry Zone. This is a deplorable thing to do to the residents in this area. We incur the expense in order to maintain a quality of life, and now this is clearly being threatened. The potential detrimental health effects of the pollutants will only add to my own personal health issues, as I'm asthmatic. Surrounding nearby areas are homes to various school campuses and playgrounds. What is the thought process behind such a project? It seems to simply be dollar signs for the powers that be. Our community is not the appropriate place for such an establishment. I've only touched upon a couple of the concerns. I know I speak not only for myself when it comes to this topic.

I respectfully request that this proposal be considered carefully. There is so much at stake for us. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,
Gina Savage
33 Old Northport Road
Kings Park, NY 11754
ginam.savage@gmail.com

*Pamela & Alan Feinstein
24 Coconut Drive
Commack, NY 11725
Afeinstein1@yahoo.com*

March 12, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman

Chairman

Surface Transportation Board 395 E
Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Mr. Oberman:

I am writing to express our utmost concern over the planned CarlsonCorp Freight Yard. Having been a Commack resident for 36 years, we have never felt so threatened by an environmental risk, as to what this freight yard is proposing.

The area is already overburdened by many sources of pollution. Within a five mile radius we are exposed to toxic pollution from the Northport Power Plant, the Huntington (Covanta) Incinerator, the medical waste incinerators at the Northport VA and St. Catherine's Hospitals, several capped landfills and their methane venting systems, and a cornucopia of businesses that add more pollutants from sand mining, concrete crushing and asphalt production. There are the emissions from the numerous trucks that serve the businesses in the area and the emissions from the LIRR diesel trains.

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 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.

*Pamela & Alan Feinstein
24 Coconut Drive
Commack, NY 11725
Afeinstein1@yahoo.com*

While this plan has been in the works for 2 years, we were only advised about 6 months ago, with little to no recourse as to how this would be managed. We have immune-compromised in our home and in light of the recent train disaster in Ohio, you have no way of assuring the local citizens that this will be a safe functional area. Your plans require reconsideration.

You are making decisions that impact our health, our property values and wellness of the community. We were never exposed to potential options and as the president of a Long Island based company, it is far from being a good business decision. If this pattern continues, it is clear you will see life time Long Islanders vacating Long Island, due to poor government decisions.

I would urge further consideration.

Best Regards,

Alan Feinstein

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman

Chairman

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20423

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

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Townline Rail Terminal in Kings Park. This construction and the future operation of removing ash and transporting it via trucks would be detrimental to the surrounding neighborhood communities. (Pollution, noise, traffic, ground and surface contamination, for example) This freight yard is not necessary! There are alternate sites in Yaphank that are less populated, and have a larger perimeter in order to accommodate this endeavor.

On behalf of my family and neighbors, I am pleading with you to deny this proposal.

Sincerely,

Karen Gellert

167 Middleville Rd

Fort Salonga, NY 11768

3/14/23

Jason Brottman
37 Long Bow Lane Commack, NY
11725
jbrottman@aol.com

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

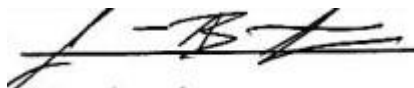
Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

I am writing regarding my opposition to Carlson Corp's Freight Yard request to build a railroad spur and a region freight rail terminal on their property at 140 Old Northport Road in Kings Park, NY. There are countless reasons I do not feel that this would be a good fit for our community and the environment, given that this area is very close to an abundance of residential housing, parks, schools, etc.

Significant concerns of pollution are rampant such as airborne pollutants / air quality, contamination of drinking water, noise pollution, light pollution, etc. Depreciation of home value and an increase in the volume of traffic within the community is a concern, especially given the weight restrictions and other commercial vehicle restrictions in the area.

All in all, Carlson Corp's proposal is not a good fit for our community or the environment, and I will continue to show a firm lack of support as needed. I appreciate the opportunity to share the thoughts of my family and neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J-Brottman', written over a horizontal line.

Jason Brottman

3/14/23

Jaclyn Brottman
37 Long Bow Lane Commack, NY
11725
jaclyndagostino@aol.com

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

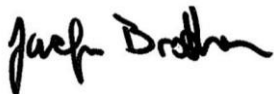
Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

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Significant concerns of pollution are rampant such as airborne pollutants / air quality, contamination of drinking water, noise pollution, light pollution, etc. Depreciation of home value and an increase in the volume of traffic within the community is a concern, especially given the weight restrictions and other commercial vehicle restrictions in the area.

All in all, Carlson Corp's proposal is not a good fit for our community or the environment, and I will continue to show a firm lack of support as needed. I appreciate the opportunity to share the thoughts of my family and neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaclyn Brottman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jaclyn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Brottman".

Jaclyn Brottman

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD. 36575

Sir,

I have lived in the beautiful town of Commack, NY for 37 years and have seen the closing of the town dump and a win not to allow low energy incinerator be built in the same Kings Park area as this freight yard is being considered to be developed.

How do we win one argument, but a new one is being considered that would be a concern to the environment and to the noise levels in a quiet neighborhood. Over the last few weeks there have been many derailments of freight trains. The Town of Huntington and Smithtown struggle to maintain the condition of the following roads: Town Line Road, Old Indian Head Road, Indian Head Road.

How would the increased truck traffic on these streets be controlled. It's a mess now and I see this being a major issue considering these trucks would travel past the Commack High School , and the Elementary School.

There are many reason we should not allow any more hazardous land development in a residential area. This area is zoned for a residential development as our NY Governor is trying to build more houses this would go against most new initiatives.

Please do not approve this proposal and let's build additional houses that are needed.

Regards, Alan Feigenbaum 28

Long Bow Lane Commack, NY

alanfeigenbaum@yahoo.com

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD. 36575

March 18, 2023

Dear Honorable Martin J Oberman:

I am writing to express my great concerns over the proposed rail freight terminal at 140 Old Northport, Rd in Kings Park. (Docket Number FD36575).

I am an 85 year old man who is currently being treated successfully for cancer. My home is on Town Line Road, less than a mile from the proposed site. I have lived here for over 50 years and have made many improvements to my beautiful property. I intend to live here for the rest of my life but I am very concerned about the likely depreciation of my property value.

As survivor I am vulnerable to the fumes and water pollution that would result from traffic. My son has severe allergies and would also be significantly impacted by the many forms of pollution. We are already exposed to many sources of air pollution from the Northport Power Plant, the Huntington Incinerator and several local hospitals . We do not need to add to this existing problem.

The terminal and train traffic would be located above the natural gas pipeline which would quickly go up in flames in the event of a gas leak. This is a very disturbing possibility.

I implore you to hear my concerns and oppose this dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,

Dr Richard Kasman
163 Town Line Road
East Northport, New York, 11731

drrbk@yahoo.com

631 368-5607

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

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed construction of a new freight yard and rail terminal in the suburb of Smithtown. I strongly believe that this project is not a good fit for the area, given the existing pollution burdens and potential negative impacts on the environment and the community.

First and foremost, the proposed location is situated in a federally designated deep recharge zone for a sole source aquifer. This means that any contamination from the proposed freight yard and rail terminal would have a direct and irreversible impact on the local drinking water supply. Given that Smithtown is already burdened by pollution from multiple sources, including heavy traffic and industrial facilities, the construction of a new freight yard and rail terminal would only exacerbate the existing environmental challenges.

Furthermore, the proposed location is in close proximity to children's sports fields, residential homes, and nursing homes. These vulnerable populations are particularly sensitive to the negative impacts of pollution, noise, odor, and light pollution. The construction of a new freight yard and rail terminal would not only create significant noise and air pollution, but it may also damage the native animals' local habitat.

In addition to these environmental concerns, the construction of a new freight yard and rail terminal would require the town of Smithtown to change its existing zoning laws. This may have a cascading effect on other businesses in the area and could lead to further environmental degradation and community dislocation.

Therefore, I urge the Surface Transportation Board to carefully consider the potential negative impacts of this proposed project and to prioritize the health and well-being of the Smithtown community and the environment. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
William J. Scully

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman

Chairman

Surface Transportation Board

395 E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

RE: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

My name is Suzanne Scully and I reside at 35 Maridon Lane, Commack N.Y. My family and I live within a few miles of the proposed Carlsoncorp's freight train rail terminal. We are deeply concerned about this on so many levels, not to mention how appalling that this is something that's been basically kept a secret from the community.

Most importantly are the obvious health concerns. If you are not aware, this location is heavily populated with residential homes and not conducive to this type of industry. We are all familiar with the pollution this will create on top of what we already bear from The Northport Power Plant, Huntington Incinerator, Hauppauge Industrial Center and several mountainous landfills with methane vents. Enough is enough. I have resided locally my entire life as did my parents and some of my grandparents and the pollution has significantly worsen with every generation. What you may not be aware of is that our location was mainly farmland. It is now being discovered to have massive pollutants that were buried and poured into the grounds that schools are built on, specifically the Northport School District which is the town right next door to Kings Park where this proposed plan is being made. Many children have fallen ill.

I am a full time Licensed Real Estate agent of almost 20 years. Professionally I can tell you how terribly this will affect property value. Let me be clear that this is not a few miles away from residential homes or even a mile away but within FEET of residential homes!!! How this is even a consideration is mind blowing to me. This is not a case of, "not in my backyard" ...it's a case of it, "should not be directly in anyone's backyard." Homeownership, The American Dream, is typically a person's most valuable asset that can essentially be reduced to practically worthless if this plan gets approved on so many levels. Not only is the worry over air pollutants but the noise pollution, light pollution and potential to pollute the sole aquifer!! This property is located in a federally designated deep recharge area of this sole aquifer.

I could go on and on about how this is a disaster if gets approved. I firmly believe that this is not a scenario of "if" something goes wrong or "if" adults, children and/or animals fall ill, but a case of when. I have to believe you would not want to be connected in any way with this potential disaster. I hope and pray you will do the right thing for our community. Actually, I beg that you do the right thing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Scully". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Suzanne" is written with a large, elegant 'S' that loops around the first few letters. The last name "Scully" is written with a large, prominent 'S' that also loops around the first few letters. The signature is positioned above the printed name.

Suzanne Scully

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

March 13, 2023

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD-36575

Dear Chairman Oberman,

I am upset to find out that the CarlsonCorp plans to build a railroad spur and terminal right here in Kings Park and that the plans have gone this far without notifying the people who live in Kings Park and will be affected by this obnoxious plan.

Do you realize how close this terminal would be to the people whose homes are next door? The noise of the engines running all day and all night, bright lights overnight, screeching breaks. Have you ever been near even just one train coming into a train station? Imagine that noise night and day.

Please take into consideration the families that bought homes in a quiet neighborhood, a little bit of Heaven, and will have their dreams smashed with a train terminal in their backyard.

Sincerely,

Maryann Helldorfer
77 Hawthorne Road
Kings Park, NY 11754
mhelldorfer@yahoo.com

Robert Genna

2 Linwood Lane

Fort Salonga, New York 11768

The Honorable Martin J Oberman

Chairman

Surface Transportation Board 395 E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

March 19, 2023

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_ 36575

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing this letter to you as a family representative in the Huntington Smithtown community in opposition to the Townline Rail Terminal affiliate with Carlson Corporation. It is my understanding that In addition to the proposed rail tracks, these trains will be hauling tons of toxic ash, construction demolition debris, and other garbage related items.

It would be a shame for a project like this to be placed smack within the communities surrounding these activities. Directly in the nearby homes of families trying to live a normal decent life, raising young children and taking care of their elderly.

Neither of these families, their children, or the elderly, should be exposed to the dangerous and toxic gases and fumes resulting from transporting and burning these items.

It remains highly likely, as seen in other similar scenarios to this one, that your organization and any other company affiliate with this project should be prepared for law suits in the future when local families, children, and elderly start to develop medical conditions related to the environment that will no doubt be created by this project.

I respectfully request you re-consider your decision to ruin the surrounding communities and potentially endanger the lives of those people living in these areas. I trust that you yourself would not want to place your family in an environment that will do harm to them as well.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Genna', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Genna

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 Chairman Oberman,

I am writing to express my opposition to the above proposed Townline Rail Terminal and freight yard in Kings Park, New York.

This facility and its operation would be extremely detrimental to all neighboring communities, most particularly Kings Park, Commack, and Fort Salonga. The environmental impacts, including noise, dust, odors, light pollution, ground & surface water contamination, and heavy truck traffic, will have a devastating affect on the residents in these communities.

This freight yard is not necessary. Although the Brookhaven landfill is to begin incrementally closing in 2024, there are far better locations moving forward to tackle the issue of removing ash off Long Island. One example is the Winter Bros. 228-acre site in Yaphank, which is almost three times the size of the proposed Townline Rail Terminal and is in a much less densely populated area.

The Townline Rail Terminal freight yard would be a chain link fence away from established residential neighborhoods. I ask that this proposal be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Name Barbara Gallagher

Address 17 Shay Drive, Kings Park

E-Mail ^{lo} ga l 1@verizon.net

Date 3/11/23

The Docket Number FD-3675