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

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

June 12, 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:
Parties

June 10, 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 Chairman Oberman:

I am writing to say I oppose the Townline Rail Terminal being proposed by Carlsoncorp at 140 Old Northport Road, Kings Park. I respectfully request that you reject this proposal.

This proposed project is located way to close to peoples' homes. The closest homes are only a few hundred feet away from where the railroad tracks, freight trains and transload facility buildings will be. Given that the freight trains will be traveling to and from the site between 10 pm and 5 am, this will greatly impact the sleep of the people living in the neighboring communities.

This freight terminal will also drive down the property values – something that homeowners rely upon as an investment for their future. This is not fair to the people who have invested in the surrounding communities.

The property that Carlsoncorp owns is not zoned for a freight terminal (and rightfully so). How can he possibly apply to you for a freight terminal that his local zoning does now allow? Two thirds of his land is zoned for residential usage. People bought homes in that area with the assurance that the neighboring land was zoned for residential usage – how can a proposal like this even be up for consideration? It makes absolutely no sense that thousands of homeowners should suffer the consequences of having a regional freight terminal in their midst so that a greedy, private businessman can get richer.

Please reject the Carlsoncorp Townline Rail Terminal. It does not belong at that site!

Sincerely,

Bryce Husted

Brenden Husted
19 Candy Lane
Commack, NY 11725

June 9, 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 Chairman Oberman:

Every day I read online about another derailment that has occurred somewhere in the United States. Some are worse than others and some like the derailment that happened in East Palestine are catastrophic. I was reading about East Palestine and saw that they immediately had to evacuate a one mile by two-mile area of land. Ultimately, a 10-mile-wide radius around the derailment was negatively impacted.

My family and I live on an island – there is simply no place to go. On this island we live in a densely populated suburban neighborhood. We have two roads that run north to south – 1 is a single lane road (Townline Road) and the other is a 2-lane road in each direction (Indian Head Road). We have 4 main roads that run east to west. Three are 1 lane roads (Pulaski Road, Cedar Road, and Burr Road) and 1 two lane road (Jericho Turnpike). The rest of our roads are tertiary roads that meander through the individual residential developments. On an average day there is so much traffic on all our roads that it is difficult to get anywhere quickly. I am very concerned that if there was a need to evacuate swiftly in an emergency situation, we all would be stuck.

Furthermore, Carlson claims that his rail yard will reduce truck traffic on our roads because he will use his rail terminal to cart out ash and C&D. However, he fails to talk about the other part of his business model which is to become a major terminal for goods shipped by rail which he will then distribute around the island via his fleet of trucks. While having a rail spur and terminal may allow him to eliminate the few trucks each day that currently haul the ash from the Covanta incinerator to the Brookhaven landfill, his shipping business will increase by leaps and bounds and will add way more trucks to our already overburdened roads.

It is my hope that you will deny Carlson's request to build Townline Rail Terminal on his property. There are other places on Long Island that are located in way less populated areas and way closer to the Long Island Expressway (the only island-wide highway that allows trucks and commercial traffic). These places provide a way more sensible place for a regional freight terminal than Carlson's property in Kings Park, New York.

Regards,

Brenden Husted

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

Date:6/7/23

Dear Sir:

Please **do not** allow this (Docket No. FD 36575) to proceed.

The Townline Rail Terminal (a subsidiary of CarlsonCorp) is seeking permission from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) in Washington, D.C. (Docket No. FD 36575) to construct and operate a private line of railroad. This regional freight terminal will have five tracks totaling 9,400 feet, two buildings totaling at least 100,000 square feet, and a 161-freight car capacity totaling 10,456 feet of train.

Many schools are in close proximity, including Fort Salonga Elementary School, North Ridge Primary School and Commack High School.

CarlsonCorp/Townline Rail Terminal has finally had to acknowledge that it will be required to receive/ship hazardous materials upon request, based on the Surface Transportation Board's common carrier railroad obligation which it is currently seeking from the federal agency.

It will also be obligated to provide rail service to any entity that requests it, not just local businesses, thus bringing goods into the yard, then shipped out by diesel trucks across Long Island. This will cause more truck traffic on our local streets, including Pulaski Road, Townline/Commack Roads, Indian Head Road, and Jericho Turnpike. You might not be aware, but our local streets are already horribly overburdened with truck traffic.

Studies have conclusively found a link with freight-railyard pollution to asthma-related pediatric emergency room hospital visits. Children attending school near railyards were more likely to exhibit airway obstruction, with higher prevalence of abnormal peak expiratory flow and more likely to have values suggesting airway inflammation. Our community already bears the burden of several major sources of environmental blight. This proposed project will also have a detrimental impact on Long Island's sole source aquifer, as it sits atop a deep recharge basin

This concern/protest is not just a NIMBY issue as our community has already done its fair share with Northport PSEG Power Plant, Covanta incinerator, Medical waste incinerator at Northport, NY VA and St. Catherine's Hospital in Smithtown within a 5 sq. mile area of this proposed freight yard.

Please **do not** allow this (Docket No. FD 36575) to proceed.

Best Regards,

William Strong
27 Bea Ave.
East Northport, NY 11731 bstrong0@gmail.com

June 10, 2023

55 Peppermint Road
Commack, NY 11725

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Honorable Oberman,

Hello. I am a resident of Commack in Suffolk County, New York and I am writing in opposition to the train yard project being proposed for Kings Park. A project such as this has no place on a site in the middle of a community close to homes and schools. I am losing sleep at night thinking of the negative impacts this project will have on my family if it moves forward. I think about the consequences it will have on our quality of life, the value of our home (our biggest investment), and most importantly, the health of my family.

There are so many negative impacts that this project will have, too many to list here. But I implore you to put yourself in my shoes and those of my neighbors. How would you feel if you purchased a home and over the last 20 years spent hard-earned money to improve the interior, exterior, and yard, only to have it significantly drop in price due to a train yard built less than a half a mile away? How would you feel if you and your family were awoken every single night by the noise from a possible 160+ car diesel train and the sound of its horn blowing frequently as it rolls by your house? How would you feel if you knew that every time you and your family inhaled, you were breathing in diesel particulates that lead to serious lung diseases? How would you feel knowing that there are on average three train derailments per day and that if it happens when this train is carrying hazardous materials, your entire family can be killed? How would you feel if the person proposing this ill-conceived project hid this from the members of the community that would be most affected? I could go on and on with the questions, but I'll tell you how you'd feel. You would feel angry, upset, frustrated, and scared out of your mind. Please do the right thing and vote no to this train yard. It does not belong here.

Thank you,

Anthony Haberman

Jacqueline A. Gallo
32 Coconut Drive
Commack, NY 11725

June 10, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman
Chairman Surface Transportation board
395 E. Street S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket #FD_36575

Dear Sir,

It has come to my attention that a proposal to allow Carlson Corp to build a freight line carrying hazardous material in our town next to homes, schools and businesses has been under way for some time. It only came to the residents' attention not very long ago. I find this behavior disgraceful and undermining. I am extremely concerned and confused about who is looking out for our best interest. By now I'm sure that there have been many letters sent as to why this is an extremely dangerous proposal, and it would be simple for me to reiterate all those reasons and concerns. There are so many of them, and they are all valid and reasonable. However, I would like to take a different approach.

So...here goes...I am saddened and disappointed that this is something that we must fight to stop. We elect officials to watch over and safeguard our lives, quality of life, homes that we have worked hard to afford. It seems to be obvious that this proposal by Carlson Corp is being made because of greed. They claim they want to help our community by disposing of our garbage, however that is no longer an issue. We do NOT have a "trash crisis!" Please do not allow them to sway you with false inuendoes. It is solely based on greed, but is greed an allowable reason to put human lives, pets' lives and future generations along with our environment in danger? I think not and I implore you, as our elected and most trusted officials, to say the same. Please give a resounding no to this proposal.

I thank you in advance for making the safe and correct choice in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Jacqueline A. Gallo

Lawrence R. Gallo
32 Coconut Drive
Commack, NY 11725

June 10, 2023

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman Chairman Surface
Transportation Board 395 E. Street S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

Docket # FD-36575

Dear Sir,

It has come to our attention that there is a proposal by Carlson Corp. to build a private diesel-powered freight yard in Kings Park, just one block north of Commack and one block east of East Northport.

There are many serious issues that could arise. Due to what has come up in recent communications...it has become apparent that Carlson Corp has lied numerous times when they claimed that they would "never" transport hazardous materials. They have recently refuted that claim. Hazardous material will be transported. Have we not learned from history? An accident would impose life threatening situations for many residents in many towns.

I would encourage more research in finding another location for this proposed freight line. There are other places in less populated areas with more barriers between an industrial site and residential properties that should be considered.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Gallo

Michael A. Gallo
32 Coconut Drive
Commack, NY 11725

June 10, 2023

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

Re: Docket # FD_36575

Dear Sir,

As a young adult that resides in Commack NY, it is with great concern that I write this letter. It has come to my attention that Carlson Corp has proposed to build a freight line that would create many dangerous situations for both human lives and our environment.

Is it conscionable to transport hazardous materials on the local Port Jefferson line, passing often within yards of our schools, homes, businesses and on our local roads?

The answer is NO! and that is the same answer that I am respectfully asking our officials to give when this proposal comes before you.

One day I hope to marry and raise a family here in my hometown. In all good conscious if this proposal isn't shut down.... Would it be a safe place to live?

Thank you for your help in helping our community.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Gallo

Andrea Feinstein
65 Monroe Street
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

June 7, 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 Chairman Oberman:

As a person who has several family members and close friends that live in Commack and Greenlawn, I am writing to express my dismay over the proposed regional freight rail yard in Kings Park, NY by Carlsoncorp. A freight rail yard of this nature will significantly impact the quality of life for my loved ones. They all moved to Commack and Greenlawn over the years to improve the lifestyles of their families. A regional freight yard and the increased truck traffic would not be beneficial to them at all. I am concerned about the pollution this will create in the area. Cancer runs in our family and in the last few years we have lost two family members who lived in Commack to cancer. Both were barely 60 years old and died way before their time. I am very concerned about the effect that additional pollution and PM 2.5 could have on my other loved ones there.

As a Long Islander, I rely upon our sole source aquifer for our drinking water. The proposed site for the rail yard sits atop a federally designated deep recharge area of the sole source aquifer. This area is protected because it can easily be compromised by toxins from the surface. In my opinion, a regional freight yard of this magnitude should never be built on top of such a sensitive area of the only source of drinking water for everyone on Long Island.

I would appreciate it if you would reject this inappropriate proposal. The site is the wrong one for a project of this nature and magnitude.

Regards,

Andrea Feinstein

Carol DiGrandi
51 Peppermint Road
Commack, NY 11725
Carolann098@outlook.com

June 11, 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 Chairman Oberman:

I suffer from severe COPD and take several medications so that I can breathe. This week between our regular level of air pollution and particulate matter coupled with the smoke and PM 2.5 from the wildfires in Canada I could not breathe. Ultimately, I had to call an ambulance and was admitted to Huntington Hospital for four days.

The thought of adding diesel fumes from freight trains and increased truck traffic to my local air from the proposed Townline Rail Terminal terrifies me. I might as well take up permanent residence at the hospital if that rail terminal is allowed to be built.

I don't know if you or any of your colleagues suffer from lung issues but I will tell you that it is no joke when you gasp for breath and feel like you're drowning. The medications only partially alleviate this issue so every breath you do take reminds you that you're still not breathing normally. It is truly terrifying. I am attaching a photo from the day I went to the hospital that my neighbor took from her office window only a few miles from our home.

Our area already has some of the worst air quality in the United States. On a "normal" day it is hard for me to breathe. Please, I beg of you do not make our air quality any worse by allowing Carlsoncorp to build Townline Rail Terminal on their property. Me and other people like me who suffer from respiratory issues will be severely negatively impacted.

Respectfully,

Carol DiGrandi



June 10, 2023

55 Peppermint Road
Commack, NY 11725

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Honorable Oberman,

I am a resident of Commack, New York and I am writing in opposition to the proposed train yard that threatens the well-being of me, my family, and my community. This train yard site is less than a half mile from my home and even closer to many others. Please look at the map of this area. You will see that it is not the right place for a project like this. For one thing, the immediate area is already overburdened with heavy industrial businesses. Just north of my home is the Covanta incinerator, a capped landfill, a sand mining business, and others. We already have more than our fair share. More importantly, is the health and well fare of my family and community. We don't want to be breathing in the pollution from diesel trains, or awakening every night to the sound of freight trains sounding their horns, or having our homes shake from the vibration of the trains rolling past. We don't want to live in fear that an accident like the one in Ohio, will threaten our lives in the middle of the night. An accident like that would literally wipe out those of us that live so close to this site.

This is not the right place for a project like this. My family and I are counting on you to do the right thing.

Thank you,

Avery Haberman
June 10, 2023
55 Peppermint Road
Commack, NY 11725

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

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Honorable Oberman,

My name is Justin Haberman and I live with my family in Commack, NY. I am writing in opposition to the train yard that is being proposed less than a mile from my family's home. It angers me that my parents have to fight, once again, against a private company that wants to come in and threaten the lives of our community, only to make money. My family does not live extravagantly. We have a nice home in a nice community. My parents only care is for the health and well-being of their children. How is it fair that a business owner, that doesn't even live around here can come in and ruin all of this? Just the fact that we, who live so close to the site, didn't even know about this until it was reported in the paper, is cause for serious alarm. If this is supposed to be good for the community, why weren't we told about it? This is not a business owner that cares about the residents of our community.

I am imploring you to please look at the map of the proposed site. Please note how close it is to the residents in the community and consider the consequences of what a project like this will do to us. Please vote no to this train yard.

Thank you,

Justin Haberman

June 10, 2023

55 Peppermint Road

Commack, NY 11725

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman

Chairman

Surface Transportation Board

395 E. Street, S.W.

Washington, DC 20423

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision, Docket No. FD_36575

Dear Your Honor,

My name is Reece Haberman. I am 18 years old and a soon-to-be high school graduate. I am from Commack, New York, and have lived in my house for my entire life. I love living in Commack. My friends are here, my job is nearby in Kings Park and my family is here. And now, this is all being threatened by a proposed train yard that if built, will be less than a half mile away from my home. I am young and still have plenty to learn, but I did some research and I can't understand why someone would want to put a train yard so close to where people live. When the windows in my room are open at night, I can hear the passenger train go by and blow its horn maybe one time. I looked up on YouTube what a diesel train sounds like and I can't believe how loud it is, especially the horn, which is going to blow much more than a passenger train. My parents told me these diesel trains are going to run at night. How are we going to get any sleep? The other thing I saw online is the pollution that comes from these trains. I saw the pictures of the trains with that black cloud of smoke coming from them. It's disgusting! All we hear constantly is this one has cancer and that one has cancer. There are kids in my school who have passed away from cancer. The particles in that smoke are going to fly through the air and land on our houses and schools. Little kids are going to be playing on the school playgrounds and parks with that stuff in the sand and grass. This is not the right place for a project like this. I'm sure there is a better solution.

Thank you,

Reece Haberman

Ronald and Candis Bergida
26 Willow Ridge Drive
Smithtown, New York 11787

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Marn J. Oberman

Chairman
Surface Transportation Board 395
E Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Mr. Oberman:

I am writing you this letter to convey my and my wife's objection to the request by the CarlsonCorp Inc. to build a railroad spur and regional freight rail terminal on their property located at 140 Old Northport Road in Kings Park, NY. Our objection is not only about quality of life and environmental concerns, but also safety and rail traffic impact on vehicle traffic in our area.

This regional train yard with five tracks totaling 9,400 feet, two buildings totaling 100,000 square feet and a 161-freight car capacity totaling 10,456 feet of train will be operating only 500 feet from established residential neighborhoods in Kings Park! The Port Jeff line goes through communities that would be severely impacted by the additional rail traffic that not only would add delays to local vehicle traffic, but with the recent history of the hazards of railroad spills is just not something any of our communities need to experience.

We know that options exist for other less densely populated areas on Long Island. Our local representatives have not properly conveyed the depth of opposition to this plan so it is now up to individual citizens to express their views. It is our opinion that as more people become aware of this plan this opposition is going to grow. We ask you to please take this letter as evidence that this matter is not as well understood by communities that will be impacted by it if this project is allowed to proceed. When the rail, truck and road congestion hit the outcry from the uniformed will make front page news.

On behalf of myself, my wife, and others we ask for your rejection or delay in having this project proceed until a truly informed, mul-community hearing can be conducted with ample notice and opportunity for residents to comment.

Respecully y ours,

Ronald Bergida

Ronald Bergida