



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

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

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
July 17, 2023
Part of
Public Record

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

July 16, 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

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

July 13, 2023

I have recently found out about the plan to build a regional diesel freight rail yard just 2 miles from my home.

I am disappointed to have learned this from my neighbors and not from the town. I am reading that no application was made to do this. My home abuts the LIRR line which for the 30 years I have been here, has been for commuting passengers and very occasional line repair equipment. Now, I'm reading that those same rail lines would be used for heavy and noisy freight style trains hauling ash and demolition debris right through my back yard.

I very much resent that this new project was being developed with no notice to any of us living here. I can't help but feel the parties involved were trying to sneak this through with no recourse after it was completed.

We bought this home 30 years ago knowing that a passenger train runs on that line and it's generally fairly quiet especially with the newer diesel trains. I can live with the occasional LIRR that doesn't carry pollutants of ash and demolition debris. I suffer from asthma and am already frustrated by the possible health issues stemming from the Covanta plant that is only 2 miles from my home.

Bottom line is I do not want noisy diesel trains running in my backyard day or night. And, I don't want more crap going into the air that I breathe. To think this could now become a frequent occurrence exasperates me.

I have lived on Long Island nearly my entire life and between the property taxes, increasing congestion from all of the densely occupied housing complexes being built in Huntington township and the most recent mess with LIPA being allowed to escape their agreement to pay into the tax base, please don't give me yet another reason to want to leave my home. If this keeps up, no one is going to want to live here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert J Aulet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert J Aulet
30 N Hill Dr
E 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

July 13, 2023

I have recently found out about the plan to build a regional diesel freight rail yard just 2 miles from my home.

I have also discovered that it will be hauling ash and demolition debris using the LIRR rails. As those rail lines run directly behind my home, I am especially concerned about the additional noise and more hazardous materials in the air that I breathe.

Further, I am disappointed to have learned this from my neighbors and not from the town. I am reading that no application was made to do this.

There are so many reasons to love Long Island but actions like this just reduce our quality of life here.

This is not progress.

I'm already becoming disenchanted with New York so please don't give me yet another reason to want to leave my home. We have made a considerable investment in our home and it seems that another government project is going to reduce the value of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marv E. Aulet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marv E Aulet
30 N Hill Dr
E 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

I JOIN MY NEIGHBORS AND TOWNLINE ASSOCIATION INC. IN OBJECTING TO THE PROJECT THAT WOULD BUILD A RAILROAD SPUR AND A REGIONAL FREIGHT RAIL TERMINAL AT 140 OLD NOTRHPORT RD IN KINDS PARK. APART FROM THE HORRENDOUS NOISE THAT HAS BEEN INCRESING IN MY AREA, IT IS OF THE UTMOST CONCERN LIVING ON LONG ISLAND WHERE THE RISK OF BREAST CANCER DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND HOT SPOTS PUTS OUR HEALTH AT RISK TO NOW HAVE THIS REGIONAL FRIEGHT YARD TOWNLINE RAIL TERMINAL ADDING HAUL ASH AND OTHER UNASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS AND AGGREGATES!!!!!!

LIVING ON LONG ISLAND HAS LOST ITS LUSTER AND ATTRACTION AS IT IS. ADDITION MORE TOXINS TO OUR LIVING AREAS WILL ONLY SERVE TO ALIENATE THOSE OF US THAT WISH TO REMAIN.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS DECISION.

Chantal Chassagne

392 Townline Road

Commack, NY 11725

6 Dryden Way
Commack, NY 11725-1913
July 16, 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:

After reading Town Line Rail Terminal LLC's ("LLC") published justification for their proposed "private diesel-powered freight yard" to be located in Kings Park, New York – and after reading the Townline Association's ("TA") published statements in opposition to this proposal – I was reminded of Thomas Jefferson's statement in the Declaration of Independence that said "**...governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...**".

The "governed" in this matter are the citizens and homeowners residing in Fort Salonga, Northport, East Northport, Commack, Greenlawn, Elwood, and Smithtown, New York. TA has previously publicly asserted that...

- these communities were *never* initially informed by federal, state, and local officials of this freight yard proposal by LLC, and that a prior "town hall" meeting had been held to discuss **only** an "indoor compost facility" at the Carlson Corporation site in Kings Park; and,
- a local Town Supervisor and a County Legislator supported LLC's freight yard proposal even before they informed their citizens of this proposal that they were supporting...there was NO vote by the "governed", NO presented resolution to the "governed", and NO community input!

LLC's own website claims that "Final plans will conform to all regulatory requirements and will receive local public input...". Do "regulatory requirements" include keeping the "governed" uninformed in the past, while at the same time limiting "local public input" to a few duly elected local representatives of the "governed"? Also, why would LLC's website seemingly fail to mention its anticipated "common carrier obligation"?

Does STB want to risk another possible derailment of hazardous materials like that seen in the Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio...without even the prospect of a Public Hearing with the "governed" citizens living in the above-mentioned communities participating?

As an independent Federal Agency, I am hopeful that you and your colleagues at the Surface Transportation Board will appreciate the great opportunity it has to recognize and give witness to Jefferson's "right of the people" in this critically important matter.

Very truly yours,

Mark M. Trolio Anna M. Trolio

July 15th, 2023

Docket Number FD_36575

The Honorable Martin J. Oberman

Chairman

Surface transportation Board

395 E Street SW

Washington D.C. 20423

Dear Chairman Oberman

140 Old Northport Road is less than a mile from my home of 30 years. The tracks on which the trains traverse back up to my neighbors back yards. The vibration of the LIRR felt throughout the neighborhood. *The LIRR will not be able to install batteries on existing trains to make travel on the Port Jeff line greener and quieter for all of our neighborhoods. The last thing our environment needs is MORE POLLUTION, ground, air, light and noise by the by the proposed Townline Rail terminal, with the running of diesel freight trains in the middle of the night. I am a health care provider, I know we are in no shortage of pulmonary and cancer patients on Long Island. Our ground water and air already affected by the Northport power plant and Covanta incinerator plant as well as the capped landfills that have created a ground plume affecting our aquifer and extending into the waters of Long Island sound. Freight trains hauling ash, construction debris and aggregates are an unwelcome addition to the already compromised towns of East Northport, Northport, Commack and Kings Park. Pulaski road, already congested with commercial vehicles would be overwhelmed with the addition of more vehicles during the construction AND hauling that debris to and from the terminal. This county road cannot handle any more traffic.*

WHERE ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES? WHERE IS THE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ON THIS PROPOSED HUB?? WHERE ARE OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS? This proposed abomination will affect our homes, our property, our towns, our health, our lives. When do we get a chance to voice our concerns?

Sincerely

Lore vonHoffen-Greenstein

35 Ketcham Court

East Northport, New York 11731

Stephen R. Keeler
5 Pups Path
Fort Salonga, NY 11768

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'm writing to you to voice my objection of the proposed Freight Yard to be build close to my house. To have these trains and trucks operating during the late hours of night in a residential area is unacceptable. The local trains and airport do not operate through the night. As it is I am a light sleeper and get woken up through the night by load vehicles going down the street. The added noise and diesel fumes are not good for the environment. Also, this proposed sight is right over our aquifer. Our clean water is already in jeopardy of being contaminated by what is already hear and know with this proposed Freight Yard is increasing the chances of a toxic accident contaminating our water source. The building of this Freight Yard will also devalue the surrounding neighborhoods causing a tax to lose for the county. To bring this Freight Yard into fruition existing zoning laws will have to be change allowing for more industry like business to operate in the area. Our roads are not built to have heavy machinery driving on them daily.

Sincerely

Stephen R. Keeler

To: 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

From: Anthony Zumpano, 21 Grace Park Drive, Commack, NY 11725 (antzump@aol.com)

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I'm writing to strongly oppose the proposal by CarlsonCorp to construct a private dieselpowered freight yard in Kings Park. The proposed location, in close proximity to residential neighborhoods and schools, raises significant concerns about the safety and well-being of our community. Transporting hazardous materials near our schools, homes, and local roads is unacceptable and poses unnecessary risks. Furthermore, the additional truck traffic and potential environmental impact of this project are of great concern.

It's also worth noting that the necessity of this project is questionable. The existing waste management facilities, such as Omni Recycling and Gershow Recycling, already handle a significant amount of construction and demolition debris (C&D), and the closure of the Brookhaven Landfill doesn't create a crisis that requires the establishment of Townline Rail Terminal.

I respectfully urge the Surface Transportation Board to reject CarlsonCorp's request for permission to construct and operate this freight yard. I implore you to prioritize the safety and well-being of our residents. Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that you will carefully consider our concerns and make a decision that reflects the best interests of our community.

Sincerely,

Anthony Zumpano

To: 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

From: Jennifer Gidman, 21 Grace Park Drive, Commack, NY 11725 (jgidman@gmail.com)

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal by CarlsonCorp. to construct a private diesel-powered freight yard in Kings Park, near residential neighborhoods. As a concerned member of one of the surrounding communities, I firmly believe that this project poses significant risks and negative impacts that shouldn't be ignored.

The proposed location of the freight yard, just one block north of Commack and one block east of East Northport, places it in close proximity to established Kings Park residential areas and several schools, including Fort Salonga Elementary School, North Ridge Primary School, and Commack High School. The potential hazards associated with the transportation of hazardous materials, as acknowledged by CarlsonCorp. itself, raise serious concerns for the safety and wellbeing of our children, residents, and businesses. We cannot accept the increased risks posed by the movement of hazardous materials passing so closely to our schools, homes, and local roads.

Furthermore, the proposed freight yard would not only contribute to the already burdensome truck traffic on our local streets, but also have a detrimental impact on Long Island's sole source aquifer, given its location atop a deep recharge basin. The potential pollution and environmental impact associated with the operation of this facility, including its effect on air quality and water resources, can't be taken lightly.

I strongly request that the Surface Transportation Board carefully consider the detrimental effects this project would have on our community's health, safety, and quality of life. We urge you to reject CarlsonCorp's request for permission to construct and operate this private diesel-powered freight yard. Our community is committed to working together to protect the wellbeing of our residents and the environment. We kindly request your thorough consideration of our concerns and an equitable resolution that prioritizes the safety and interests of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gidman