

Kim Zubrinic, D.O.
33 Orchard Drive
Fort Salonga, NY 11768
January 17, 2024

Danielle Gosselin, Director
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Docket No. FD_36575
Townline Rail Terminal, LLC Construction and Operation of a Line of Railroad:
Issuance of Draft Environmental Assessment

Dear Ms Danielle Gosselin,

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. Carlson has filed for a federal common carry permit which would require the freight yard to accept hazardous material upon request.

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.

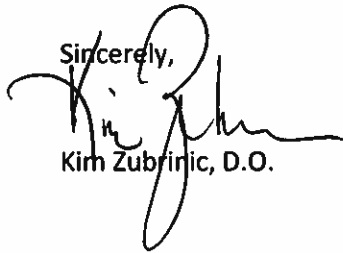
The new rail line will operate through several densely populated communities with families, schools, play yards, ballfields, hospitals, and nursing homes. Therefore, children, elderly and infirm will be especially impacted by this rail line, organic waste facility and freight yard. The adverse health consequences of diesel exhaust particles, noise pollution, incinerated ash fly and water contamination from toxic by products have been well documented. Hauling and transfer of hazardous material via freight train potentially increases health risks, especially cancer, via aerosolization, water contamination and direct skin contact. Long Island already has cancer rates that are higher than the national average.

Diesel exhaust alone 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. Children who live in noisy environments have been shown to have elevated blood pressures and elevated levels of stress-induced hormones (The Lancet, Volume 383,issue 9925 ,April 2014).

My home is located ¼ mile from an expansive industrial site on Townline Road in Commack/Kings Park. This site includes the Huntington (Covanta) Incinerator and a plethora of other pollutant producing businesses including concrete crushing, asphalt production and sand mining industries. The industrial site is also the site of several capped landfills with methane venting systems. The Northport Power Plant and medical waste incinerators from Northport VA and St Catherine's Hospital is within a five mile radius of my home. In addition, 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 have been already been 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 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Zubrinic', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

Kim Zubrinic, D.O.