



# The Senate of The State of Texas

Chairman Peter P. Flores

District 24

March 31, 2025

Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street  
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Members of the Surface Transportation Board,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed 26.9-mile railway project by Texas Materials Group Inc., intended to haul aggregate from Burnet County quarries to Lampasas County. As a Texas State Senator representing Burnet and Lampasas Counties, I have significant concerns about the negative impacts this project may have on our community's environment, economy, property rights, and quality of life.

The lack of early communication and transparency from Texas Materials has left landowners in the dark about a project that will directly affect my constituents' properties. Many of them only learned about this proposal through informal channels like social media, which is not accessible to all community members, particularly older residents. This oversight is concerning and undermines the trust between landowners and the parties involved in the project.

The proposed railway line poses a significant threat to the local environment. It will traverse Sulphur Creek, potentially disrupting the natural breeding habitat of the Guadalupe bass, our state fish. Many large family-held farms and ranches will also be affected by the line; it also runs close to the historic Scott Hollow and through the 124-year-old Thornal Cemetery, areas that hold cultural and ecological importance.

The proposed railway would divide many properties, limiting access and reducing the usability of my constituents' land. This division raises safety concerns, especially if no access roads are built to connect separated parcels of property. Many of my constituents have expressed concerns that homes and farm buildings would be separated and travel time would be increased and become burdensome. Moreover, the possibility of Texas Materials utilizing eminent domain to acquire land is alarming and poses a threat to the property rights of landowners.

The construction and operation of the railway will lead to decreased property values and financial instability for property owners. This project puts our investments at risk and threatens the economic well-being of our community.

The introduction of a railway line will disrupt the peaceful rural lifestyle, bringing noise, vibrations, and increased traffic to our community. These changes will negatively impact the well-being of residents, particularly the elderly and those with health conditions sensitive to such disturbances.

I urge the Surface Transportation Board to consider these concerns and the voices of the affected community members. I respectfully request that you deny approval for the Texas Materials railway project to protect our community's rights, environment, economy, and quality of life.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my Chief of Staff, Harold Stone, at (512) 463-0124.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pete B. Flores" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Pete Flores  
Senate District 24