

To whom it may concern,

As a property owner in Burnet County, I am writing to express my firm opposition to the proposed Texas Materials rail line through Burnet County, Texas.

My Great-Grandfather and his brother along with my Great-Great-Grandmother bought property on County Road 200 in 1892. It has been owned by their descendants and has been carefully stewarded since then. I inherited part of this property in 1991. This property has been used for cattle ranching, hunting and wildlife management for 133 years. This project poses a significant threat to the livelihood of ranchers and the preservation of critical wildlife habitats.

Several ranches on County Road 200 have been sold to build neighborhoods, encroaching on the habitat for much of the wildlife in the area. The addition of a railroad built in the area would further disrupt wildlife habitats and the ability of ranchers to raise cattle safely and economically on the land they own.

The proposed rail line would also have a devastating impact on the fragile ecosystem in Burnet County, particularly on endangered and protected species such as the golden-cheeked warbler, and the red-tailed hawk; not to mention the numerous other wildlife species including Monarch butterflies that migrate through the area. Our land provides an essential habitat for these birds, offering the dense oak, some over 100 years old, and juniper woodlands necessary for nesting and survival. Fragmenting these habitats with a rail line could push already vulnerable species further toward decline. Increased noise pollution and human activity will disrupt natural behaviors, driving many species away from their nesting and hunting grounds. Preserving these habitats is not only a moral obligation but also an essential duty under federal and state conservation laws. Air pollution will be increased due to the large train diesel engines, also impacting the habitats.

The disruption this railroad would cause is unacceptable, and I urge you to reconsider allowing this rail line to be built in Burnet County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marilyn Daily