

**From:** [TC Coffman](#)  
**To:** [Assenza, Adam](#)  
**Cc:** [jsunvison@yahoo.com](mailto:jsunvison@yahoo.com); [mwsunvis@gmail.com](mailto:mwsunvis@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Landowner Protest Regarding Docket Number: 36815  
**Date:** Monday, March 24, 2025 9:44:30 AM  
**Attachments:** [Sunvison\\_RailProtest-23Mar25 \(Signed\).pdf](#)

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You don't often get email from [dodgm211@gmail.com](mailto:dodgm211@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Mr. Assenza,

I am emailing you on behalf of the Sunvison family. Mr. and Mrs. Sunvison are truly beautiful people. They are in their latter years and do not savvy technology so much. They are working to get this letter to you directly, but asked me to assist to ensure it gets to you in time for the 3 April 2025 deadline for comments.

Attached is the letter they prepared for your consideration, protesting the proposed plan to run a portion of the quarry rail line through their property. They ask you please consider this and any other letters or protests you receive regarding this proposal in your decision making process. This rail line will absolutely harm the beauty and fragility of the environment in the proposed area and crush the dreams and lives of many land and home owners along the proposed route.

I am blessed to be a close friend of the Sunvisons and know many of the other landowners affected. These people are unable to sleep and are literally ill at the thought of losing the way of life they have worked their entire lives to build and sustain.

I thank you for your time and consideration. I will continue to assist them in getting this letter to you directly from them.

Thank you!

Wesley (Jimmy) and Vivian Sunvison  
12167 County Road 207 Lampasas, Texas 76550  
(512) 564-0585  
jsunvison@yahoo.com

MARCH 23, 2025

**Adam Assenza**  
**Surface Transportation Board**  
**OEA Project Manager**  
**Docket Number: FD 36815**  
**395 East Street SW**  
**Washington, D.C. 20423**

(202) 245-0301

Dear Mr. Assenza and the Surface Transportation Board,

We are writing to you as we are just one of the landowners whose lives will be negatively affected by the proposed Quarry Railroad Line (Texas Materials Group Inc.) from Burnet County into Lampasas County.

Firstly, we are extremely concerned to learn this plan has been in the works for over 2 years. At no time until just a couple weeks ago, were we or any of the 180+ affected homes and 100+ landowners made aware of this proposed rail line. Rumor has it, TMG has already purchased a 1600+ foot train with 120 cars and 4 locomotives, suggesting they have a bit of confidence this proposal will be approved. The lack of transparency brings into question the integrity of the Dublin, Ireland owned company as well as that of the appropriate governmental processes associated with this action. Sadly, we only learned of this plan through a neighbor who learned in through another. No effort was made to inform landowners or the communities of this plan. Then, once it became known, we're told we only have about 3 weeks to comment and protest the proposed project. If the news is accurate, county officials only learned of this plan as of 4 March 2025. Leaving the counties' elected officials reeling at the news and under significant pressure from their constituents. This activity is not only shady, but also the epidemic of why hard-working Americans are losing faith in our bureaucrats and the Government that is supposed to be working

for us. How has TMG and the STB exercised their due diligence in notifying landowners of this project?

Our property and the land surrounding it has been owned by only 2 families for over 140 years. We purchased this land with the dream of creating our Heaven on Earth and as part of our legacy for our children and grandchildren. Everything we've worked for in life was driven by the goal to improve upon and sustain the land, our livestock, and the wildlife that resides here. This is our sanctuary from the constant growth and urbanization of this beautiful part of Central Texas. News of this plan has literally shattered our dream, turning it into a forecasted nightmare and the exact opposite of what we've worked so hard to avoid.

Vivian and I are in our latter 70s and still work this land daily, from before sunup till near sundown. Our sheep subsidize our retirement and bring us fulfillment. Our children were raised here and learned the values of hard work, respect for the land and your neighbors, they've learned about wildlife and responsible wildlife management, safe and responsible gun ownership and marksmanship, the value of owning something you've worked hard for, and the love of family.

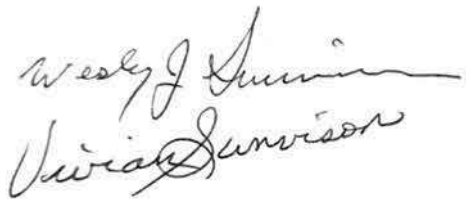
The proposed rail line would cut directly through the only section of thick brush, refuge for wildlife, we have on our property. It will also negatively affect 1 of our 2 oat fields we cultivate to augment the rising cost associated with feeding our sheep. The proposed line would also run less than 50 yards from a bluff, overlooking Mesquite Creek. If not for safety, there certainly would be environmental concerns associated with impacts to the natural condition of the Creek as it plays an integral part in flood prevention and the supply of water to the surrounding area. Mesquite Creek feeds into the Lampasas River. The area in which the line will move through our land is part of a wetland that serves wildlife and feeds the Creek. This plan would deem our property unusable for hunting, a staple of our family's connection to nature. Every generation of our family has and will continue to hunt here, unless this rail makes it unsafe to do so. It will also eliminate our ability to utilize our rifle and pistol ranges in which we have invested over \$50,000 to build.

Let it be known to all who should read this letter. We are adamantly **opposed** to the proposed plan to establish this rail line! There is no amount of money someone could offer that would encourage us to sell this place. That said, there is no doubt this rail line would, not only damage the natural beauty of this area, but it would certainly decrease the value of the land. The rail would run less than 900 yards from our house. Who would desire to move to the country to look at, let alone hear the racket of a train literally tearing through the landscape.

What we see happening is a sad tale a person never truly considers until it's you in the story. This situation is like so many others you hear in the news. A tale of greed and "progress"

bringing an end to people's dreams. Growth is inevitable, but it can't come at the cost of people's right to the pursuit of their happiness. This plan is doing just that. We can't sleep and are genuinely ill at the thought of this plan coming to fruition and tearing apart everything we've built.

We sincerely request your consideration of this letter and the letters of other distraught and concerned citizens as part of your evaluation of this plan.

Handwritten signatures of Jimmy and Vivian Suvison. The signature for Jimmy is written above the signature for Vivian.

Jimmy and Vivian Suvison

P.O. Box 1088

Lampasas, Texas 76550

#### Questions:

- 1) When was this proposal originally submitted and to who?
- 2) Why has the Surface Transportation Board and Texas Materials Group not addressed the affected landowners and communities to discuss their exact plans and the people's concerns?
- 3) Why are alternate routes utilizing existing transportation corridors not being considered?
- 4) Why doesn't Texas Materials Group stick with trucking to move their product? Partner with TxDoT to invest in improvements to HW 281 or HW 183 to facilitate the movement of their material.
- 5) What are the specific environmental considerations being evaluated by the STB's Office of Environmental Analysis? How are they conducting this "analysis" without physically surveying the lands affected?