

April 16, 2024 11:30 am to 1:30 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

To: The Surface Transportation Board et. al.

My name is Enriqueta Diaz. My rothers and sisters and nieces and nehews own property by the planned Railway in Maverick County, Texas in the Seco Mines area. I am the youngest of 16 children. My father was a coal miner and died after a vehicle accident while working in the coal mines.

The property where the Railway is being considered has a long history and very close to the hearts of the people in Seco Mines because Seco Mines is the neighborhood established and colonized during the coal mine industrial rush in Maverick County, Texas during the early to middle 1800's and early to middle 1900's. The "Seco Creek" is not really a creek. It is a drainage ditch from the overflow from the Water Control and District #1 canal, plus a rain once a year or so.

First of all, I have been an advocate against corruption and abuse of power by elected officials over the residents and citizens of Eagle Pass and Maverick County, Texas. It rook a lot of polanning and organizaing the community to get the county to pave the streets, place sewer and water, lighting, trash pi8ck up, parks, etc. in the Seco Mines area to improve the living conditions of the families living there and especially the children. We also came together to demand the Eagle Pass Independent School District to build an elementary school in our neighborhood, which was done and named Seco Mines Elementary School. That school is located on the corner of Dr. Gates and Diaz street. This school list located next to the Railway you are proposing to build.

A few years ago a Railroad car,, returning from Mexico, was not properly cleaned and the fumes inside the Railroad car caused an explosion of toxic

gases right next to International Bridge 1 of Eagle Pass. I was one of approximately 75-80, many which were US Customs officers on duty at the International Bridge 1, victims in the proximity of the explosion that were injured. I was taken to San Antonio, Texas in severe critical condition with burns in my esophagus, lungs and mouth. I suffered torturing pain while I was being treated while intubated, not knowing whether I was going to live or die. All the time, while not being able to breathe on my own, all I could think about was whether I was going to live to see my child again. If I can remember correctly, I believe there were 1 or 2 victims that didn't make it and died. Unfortunately, our hospital was not equipped to handle an emergency of such magnitude. So we were sent to San Antonio, Texas to different hospitals. Can you imagine this happening to you?

During that explosion, Eagle Pass, Texas was in chaos because our hospital and ambulance service is not prepared for that magnitude of a disaster. **Even our Fire Department is not big enough to service a major disaster.** They do the best they can but with limitations of how many people they can assist at one time.

Law suits were filed left and right and a lot of money was paid to many of the victims. However, no amount of money can pay for the life consequences that we have had to endure. I still have problems with my voice. I have to use my stomach to get my voice out, and many people that don't know of my medical problem, tend to think I am yelling at them. It is a medical problem caused by the explosion that I will have to live with for the rest of my life.

Now, why did this happen? Simply because when it comes to setting infrastructure, in the political world, MONEY TALKS! And this is not news, it happens all the way to the White House. "You scratch my back, and I will scratch yours." I will ask you, "Are you here to really consider the concerns of the people or just to comply and rubber stamp policies and regulations? I say this because the majority of the people in the area who

will be affected by this Railway are not even aware of this hearing taking place today. I am here on their behalf.

Unfortunately, our present County Judge Ramsey English Cantu and his three Commissioners Olga Ramos, Roberto Ruiz, and Rosanna Rios don't even live in this affected area, nor do they care what consequences people have to suffer as long as Ruben Garibay gets the International Bridge 3 approved and the Railway he desperately needs. Ramsey English Cantu was the Mayor of Eagle Pass and even before he became County Judge, he and the Commissiones were already in cajuts with Ruben Garibay agreeing to give the Maverick County International Bridge 3 already registered with the US State Department to be built by Maverick Countyk, and grant it to Mr. Ruben Garibay. As a matter of fact, election financial records reflect the thousands of dollars that were donated by Mr. Ruben Garibay as political contributions towards County Judge Ramsey Cantu's election. He sold out the prestige of Maverick County. Needless to say, County Judge Ramsey English Cantu and his Commissisoners Court were re4ady to work the infrastructure for Ruben Garibay. The committment of Ramsey English Cantu and his Commissioners was so great that even when the community raised a petition to stop the \$24 million loan to put sewer and water on properties recently bought by Ruben Garibay in the vicinity of the proposed Puente Verde, the four voted to deny the petition and the right of the people to oppose the loan. A federal law suit was filed in Del Rio, Texas and Ramsey English Cantu and his group lost the case. The loan was cancelled because they denied a properly, legal petition agains the rights of the people under the US Constitution.

Mr. Ruben Garibay is not from Eagle Pass. Commissioner's Court is not representing the people of Maverick County. This conspiracy was planned since before Ramsey English Cantu became County Judge. He appears very professional and soft spoken but is really a devil in disguise.

I predict that Ramsey English Cantu wilolo either be removed by the

Commission on Judicial Conduct, will get indicted as there is presently an investigation on this conspiracy, or he will be a one term judge. But he does not care who he hurts. I can assure you that Ramsey English Cantu has a guaranteed job with Ruben Garibay no matter what happens.

I am asking this Board to please have consideration for what is really under the carpet of corruption in politics. Our community needs your you to deny the Railway. Do not help these group sabotage all of Eagle Pass and allo its citizens. They are power hungrey. Thank you in advance.

Respectfully yours,



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