

April 9, 2007

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Surface Transportation Board
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Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

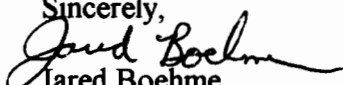
Re: Southwest Gulf Railroad Company's proposal to construct and operate a rail line in Medina County.

As concerned residents of the area affected by the proposed rail routes, we would like to share some of our views on this project. We are both life long residents of the Quihi and Bader Settlement area. Our families are direct descendants of the original settlers of Medina County and we continue to live, farm, and ranch here. We are very aware of the history that lies in our county.

While the original proposed route will affect my wife's families land, this is the best route in our opinion. This is the shortest route affecting the least amount of land. We believe that the facts are exaggerated to ultimately get what some people want. Vulcan and Southern Gulf Railroad (SGR) have expressed their willingness to preserve as much as possible any authentic historical sites that may exist in our area. Land is a non-renewable resource that is in very short supply, in our area especially, and must also be protected. The original route will affect half as many landowners as the eastern routes. The eastern routes were drawn by anti-quarry, anti-rail groups over certain landowners homes and land, who did not support their numerous attempts to stop the quarry and rail.

Originally these groups goal was to stop the quarry and this is still their main goal by making these eastern routes not feasible. The eastern routes will be, at the least, two miles further in distance. This amounts to approximately fifteen acres more land and about thirteen more divisions of land when compared to the original route. These divisions would most likely result in the owners having to sell because retaining this land for agriculture purposes would not be profitable. Also, two more miles of track at six trains a day for fifty years would be an additional **438,000 miles** of freight hauling. This is a tremendous amount of fuel being burned and exhaust polluting our atmosphere that is unnecessary. This is an unconscious use of natural resources in a time when the government is suggesting conservation in fuel and pollution.

Taking all this into consideration, we believe the best route would be the original proposed route. Please help up preserve the farming and ranching heritage in our area by supporting the original preferred route.

Sincerely,

Jared Boehme


Janet Boehme

Cc: Rick Perry, Governor of Texas

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JTB
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