

EI-18841

George Baxter
P.O. Box 951
Eagle Pass, TX 78853
February 28, 2012

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attn: Docket No. FD 35554

Dear Mr. Navecky:

I am writing in regard to the Surface Transportation Board's letter of February 3, 2012 concerning the Eagle Pass Railroad in Maverick County, Texas.

I and nearly all of my neighbors living in the Hopedale area (around route FM 1589), north of Eagle Pass, TX, were shocked and surprised to learn that several of the proposed routes for this rail line pass through heavily populated residential zones. In particular, the route identified in the Board's letter as Corridor 4 runs directly through or extremely close to my homestead property and those of many other persons in our neighborhood. The statement in this letter that the line would cross mostly rangeland is incorrect.

The reason for this railroad is said to be to transport coal from the proposed Dos Republicas strip mine. I and almost everyone in this locality completely oppose this mine as an extremely dangerous threat to our health and welfare since it will pollute the air we breathe and the water we drink. We are told that all of the coal mined here would be transported to Mexico, so that we would receive no benefit from it. The idea that our government would also allow us American citizens to be subjected to daily train traffic carrying coal to Mexico right outside our front door, strictly for the benefit of foreign corporations, is appalling.

There seems to be no valid reason why this route (Corridor 4) is contemplated as it would be extremely destructive to the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of people living in this area, would expose them to constant air pollution from coal dust blowing off the railroad cars and virtually destroy the value of our properties in which we have invested tens of thousands of dollars.

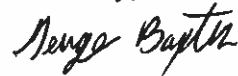
Many of us have lived in this area for 30 or more years. Many of us have served this country in our Armed Forces and in other capacities. I believe the Surface Transportation Board should protect our interests first, rather than those of a railroad company owned by rich Mexican investors. Therefore, we are asking the Board to deny the Eagle Pass Railroad company permission to build a line anywhere in Maverick County, but especially not anywhere close to the route designated as Corridor 4.

We also request the Board require a full scale Environmental Impact Statement to be conducted rather than any lesser Environmental Assessment. There are too many people affected and too many adverse environmental consequences to this proposed rail line to allow anything less than a complete and thorough study of the matter.

I also request that I be placed on the Surface Transportation Board's mailing list so that I can receive any future correspondence regarding this project.

Thank you for any consideration that you could show us in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Baxter".

George Baxter