

11/8/07

Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington DC 20423

Finance Docket: 34284 (SGR Railroad – Quihi Texas)

Dear Mrs. Wood,

I would like to thank you for reading my letter today, and for all the hard work and efforts that the STB has put forth for our community of Quihi. I am a member of the Programmatic Agreement Consulting Committee and would like to raise some concerns that have worried me since the onset of the proposed Eastern Bypass Route of the SGR rail that threatens to divide my property in half.

In this letter I would like to describe my property and also share with you what could possibly happen to my property in Quihi, Texas should the Eastern Bypass Route of Southwest Gulf Railroad be permitted to transverse it.

Historically speaking, my property has been used for farming and ranching for the past 100 years. It is narrow strip of 140 acres that attaches on the north to County Road 354, and stops short of FM 2676 by ½ mile. The proposed rail would basically sever my property in half rendering it virtually unusable for it's primary purpose of farming and ranching due to cattle not having access to water or feed on the north end. Cutting a property in half, in this manner, will also cut the amount of cattle and farming produced.

This severing of my property will also cut off my access to CR 354 which is my only contact to a county road attached to my property. My current exit to the property is an easement to the west to CR 353 which should the proposed route, take (Eastern Bypass) I will be hindered / endangered by the hundreds of gravel trucks exiting the quarry.

My home (located on the property) that I have lived in since early childhood (1959) was built circa 1890 and has immense historical value (of the early Henry Castro colonies) not to mention the sentimental value and memories of my family. The property now is not only called home by myself, but my Nephew and Niece and their 3 small children, as well as a respected veterinarian and his family. This is all threatened by the proposed SGR Eastern Bypass route through the property.

Many early Native American and German artifacts have been found in this area as well. We have found on numerous occasions arrowheads, spearheads and other archeological artifacts throughout the property. I would ask that you please have a thorough and complete archeological survey performed by qualified individuals before considering the Eastern Bypass Route, other routes or modifications of any proposed routes.

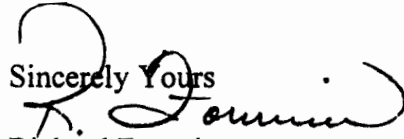
HEI-3236

FD 34284

Received 11/19/07

I am certain that The settlement of Quihi and surrounding areas, still retains vast amounts of archeological treasures still hidden and yet to be discovered.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your time and attention to my letter, and my opportunity to speak to you about these concerns.

Sincerely Yours


Richard Fournier
200 PR 3531
Hondo, Texas 78861