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Surface Transportation Board
Diana F. Wood,
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street S.W. Room 1110
Washington, DC 20423

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

Dear Ms. Wood:

I own property that will be affected by the proposed eastern railroad track routes and subsequent train. This route will divide our family property. A train traveling through the area will create a bunch of noise, dust, and organic fumes. San Antonio is already a non-attainment area for air quality and this will only increase the amount of emissions. I was raised on the farm and want to retire to peaceful retirement on that property.

I believe selecting the eastern routes will more than double the number of farms and ranches that will be affected compared to the Original Proposed Route. This has the potential of destroying the farming and ranching in the Quihi area.

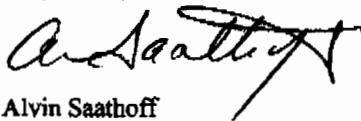
I do not want the historical and archeological sites in the area harmed by the construction of the rail and the movement of heavily loaded trains.

This rail route will also cross many drainage creeks and block them off. Bridges will need to be constructed over all drainage creeks. This requirement should be part of the conditions on the issuing of a permit. I do not want to see flooding in the area.

I want highway overpasses constructed wherever the railroad crosses roads. This requirement should be part of the conditions on the issuing of a permit.

The fuel storage and maintenance area should be moved out of the Elm Creek flood plain. I do not want to see fuels and oil spilled into the flood plain.

Respectfully,



Alvin Saathoff