

#E1-3230
PD 34284
Received 11/19/07

November 9, 2007

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

Finance Docket: 34284 (SGR Railroad – Quihi Texas)

Dear Mrs. Wood,

We are writing you today to express concerns that the people of Quihi have regarding the eastern bypass route of the SGR Railway and want to thank you for all the hard work and efforts that the STB has put forth for our community of Quihi. We would like to raise some concerns that have worried us since the onset of the proposed Eastern Bypass Route of the SGR rail that threatens to divide our property in half.

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

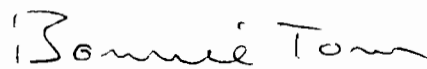
Historically speaking, our property has been used for farming and ranching for the past 100+ years. It is rather narrow strip of 154 acres that is accessed by an easement from FM 2676 for a distance of about one-fourth mile. The proposed rail route would basically sever our property in half rendering it virtually unusable for its primary purpose of farming and game ranching due to cattle and deer not having access to water or feed on the north end. It is enclosed by an 8-foot deer proof fence to keep our exotic animals, which include some endangered species such as Red Lechwe, from escaping.

Cutting my wife's and my property in half in this manner would destroy my game ranching operation since there would be no way to access one-half of my land and the railway would destroy the tranquility of our land.

Also on our land is a pioneer Alsatian rock house built in the early 1800's which has significant historical value. There are Native American and Alsatian Pioneer artifacts located on our land which are all threatened by the 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. We 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. We 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, we would like to thank you for your time and attention to our letter expressing our concerns about the proposed Eastern Bypass Route by SGR Railway.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Gregory Tom in cursive script.Handwritten signature of Bonnie Tom in cursive script.

Gregory and Bonnie Tom
P.O. Box 398
Boerne, Tx 78006