

#E1-1923
RJ

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received
2/22/06

Dear Senator Hutchison:

My family has lived in Hondo, Quihi, and Medina County, Texas, since 1837. To this day, we have farmed that land and have looked after that land as my family has grown and moved to other parts of Medina County and other areas of Texas. My wife and I still live in Quihi. We still attend the Quihi Church and know the people of our community very well.

For several years we have been listening to the talk about Vulcan Materials, plan for a quarry and rail line near Quihi. We are always surprised when somebody stands up at a meeting or writes a letter to the newspaper claiming that most of the Quihi residents oppose Vulcan,s plans. As I said, I live here, go to church here, and know most of the people here. The people who are speaking against the quarry and rail line are in the minority. They have certainly been loud. However, the volume of their voices does not represent the number of people who agree with them. I assure you, the majority of people in Quihi and Medina County support the quarry.

The reason that I write to you now is because of what those people are saying about the rail line. Even people who oppose the quarry are for the rail line. The people delaying the rail line are the minority of the minority. Many people were told incorrectly years ago that defeating the rail line would defeat the quarry. Most of them now understand that the two are separate issues. They understand that defeating the rail line will be asking for 1,600 trucks per day running from the quarry to U.S. 90. We need the rail line.

Please move forward as soon as possible to approve the rail line. The safety of Medina County residents is at stake. Flooding is not an issue. Historic integrity has been taken care of. Road crossings can be worked out. We need the rail line to be approved. Please contact the Surface Transportation Board and encourage them to approve a route. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Joey and Brenda Decker
1041 County Road 355