

Ms Diana Wood
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Received 4/10/07
E1-2874
FD-34284
D7W

Dr. James M. Bower
Dr. Carolina Livi
325 Private Road 3660
Hondo Texas 78861

April 8, 2007

Dear Ms. Wood:

For several years we have been following the debate regarding the location of a new railroad spur in Medina County, Texas, to service a new quarry north of Quihi, Texas. We have been concerned because it was suggested that, as a last resort, the railroad would be placed along an old right-of-way established in the early 1900's to build the Medina River Dam. It is our understanding that resistance to the original, and more direct route to the west has now raised the eastern routes as serious possibilities.

We are deeply concerned about this development. As you are probably aware, many of our effected neighbors are families that have lived on their farms for generations. The proposed routes would bisect many of these historic farms. In our case, we moved our family to this property 5 years ago. While our rights to this culture and lifestyle are not historical, we have invested considerable time and money in developing our 75 acres. The old medina damn route basically runs straight through our house and our new horse barn and almost completely bisects our property. This is obviously completely unacceptable. It is my understanding that the proposed eastern routes bisect many more farms than the original western routes.

The only reason to put in a new railroad spur is to reduce shipping costs for the company. There are more than adequate public roads to truck products and this is how most existing quarries operate in this area. If a new spur line is going to be established, it should run along roads in public right of way, and not bisect farms, or in this case, run through our living room.

While the farmers in this area may not have the resources to protect themselves, there are a growing numbers of families, like ourselves, in eastern Medina County who do have the means to protect the investments we have made in our property and, at the same time, protect the cultural history of our less well-to-do neighbors.

I would urge you and the Federal Surface Transportation Board to find alternatives to the eastern routes now being considered, and to seriously consider whether it makes any real sense to build a new railroad spur at all.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dr. James M. Bower

Dr Carolina Livi