

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
395 E STREET,SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20423

Attention: Danielle Gosselin
Office of Environmental Analysis
Environmental Filing FD 35116

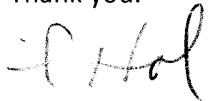
Dear Sir/Madame:

It is disturbing to hear the Western Segment includes a proposed rail route through the Morrisdale-Allport area. The proposed Hawk Run rail route will have significantly less impact on residential and business properties. By using the Hawk Run rail route, far less buildings are at risk from safety and environmental hazards. The Morrisdale-Allport route is much too close to buildings and people, which has the potential of extreme safety hazards for people living in this area. The risk of personal safety, fire and environmental/pollution hazards are too great.

Also, I would like to point out the Morrisdale-Allport rail route will certainly have a negative impact on State Route 53, and disrupt businesses and traffic flow in the area. SR 53 is a major corridor through this area with heavy truck and auto traffic. The proposed rail solution must cross SR 53 and will almost certainly cause serious traffic hazards and noise pollution. Furthermore, there is the potential for greater than 20 secondary (driveway, small roadway, business driveway) rail crossings over a 2 mile section. There will almost certainly be constant "whistle blowing" in this high density residential and business area. Furthermore, the potential for negatively impacting property values is significant. Residents and businesses in this area will not be able to absorb property value losses.

But most importantly, I strongly emphasize the compromise in safety and pollution risk for the Morrisdale-Allport area. In short, I strongly encourage the STB to minimize safety and environmental hazards for business and property owners and use the proposed Hawk Run route.

Thank you.



Michael Holmes

5265 Morrisdale-Allport Hwy
Morrisdale, Pa 16858