

#EI-25837

March 12, 2017

Ms. Diana Wood

Office of Environmental Analysis

395 E Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: Draft Cultural Resources Report on Southwest Gulf Railroad Right of Way

STB Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Wood,

Over ten years ago, my wife Nancy and I moved to Quihi, Texas after years of researching areas around San Antonio to find the ideal place to live out our lives after retirement. It wasn't until about a year later that we found out about the plan by the Southwest Gulf Railroad to build a railroad track through the Quihi Historical Area. How terribly unfortunate for us and others, many of whom are generations of families that grew up and farmed this area and raised their families here.

It is so sad that the historical value of the upper and lower Quihi is being ignored by a mammoth corporation with its stockholders without any consideration for the Quihi residents, the historical events or the endangered wildlife that inhabit this area.

Obviously, the proposed Southwest Gulf Railroad line is not a common carrier. We all know it and they do as well. None of us have heard of corporations lined up asking for a rail spur to service their entity. It may sound impressive in stating their case but it is not based on fact. Their apparent desire is not to service these supposed entities but to move materials from a nearby quarry to market. In fact, to service a spur would disrupt the movement of these materials as they are on timed crossings. To add additional cars would compromise their ability to maintain an efficient schedule.

After years of studies, meetings and letters written, I am appalled that this route was the best they could come up with. Surely, their professionals and consultants could have presented a route that would be environmentally, historically and neighbor friendly.

It's time to go back to the drawing board and come up with a route that would bring satisfaction to all. Please, move your enterprise away from the Quihi area. The controversy alone has disrupted way too many residents of this historical area.

Sincerely,

Mike Beers