

IN PARLIAMENT  
HOUSE OF COMMONS  
SESSION 2013–14

HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL

Against – on Merits – By Counsel, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Parliament assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the Cyclists' Touring Club, known as 'CTC, the national cycling charity'.

SHEWETH as follows:-

- 1 A Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the bill") has been introduced and is now pending in your honourable House intituled "A bill to make provision for a railway between Euston in London and a junction with the West Coast Main Line at Handsacre in Staffordshire, with a spur from Old Oak Common in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to a junction with the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at York Way in the London Borough of Islington and a spur from Water Orton in Warwickshire to Curzon Street in Birmingham; and for connected purposes.
- 2 The Bill is presented by Mr Secretary McLoughlin.
- 3 Your petitioner's concerns relate primarily to: clause 1 and schedule 1 (concerning the works to be undertaken for the High Speed 2 rail project, including the construction of stations and interchanges), clause 3 and schedule 4, (relating to the stopping up of highways), clause 11 and schedule 14 (relating to public access rights), clause 15 (concerning the use of roads for, among other things, construction traffic), clause 28 (access to commons, greens and other open spaces), clause 33 and schedule 23 (streetworks), clause 34 and schedule 24 (the use of goods vehicles), and clause 46 and schedule 31 part 1 (minimising traffic disruption).
- 4 Your Petitioner is a charity, founded in 1878 and with a membership of 66,000 individuals throughout the UK, which (among other things) represents the interests of cycling and cyclists in matters of public policy. The charity's aims include promoting the health, environmental and other benefits of cycling, and the creation of safe, convenient and attractive cycling conditions, in order to maximise these benefits.

- 5 The interests represented by your Petitioner are injuriously affected by the Bill, to which your Petitioner objects for reasons amongst others, hereinafter appearing.
- 6 Your petitioner does not take a view on the principle of constructing the High Speed 2 rail project. However it believes that the project needs to be “cycle-proofed”, given the Prime Minister’s commitment last summer to “cycle-proof” all schemes on the strategic road network, and his encouragement to local authorities to do likewise for schemes on the local road network.
- 7 Specifically, your petitioner is concerned that the Bill: (a) does not make adequate provision for maintaining safe, convenient and commodious access by cycle across or in the vicinity of High Speed 2 rail line corridor, either by way of the road network or by way of the rights of way network and other off-road access rights; (b) does not make provision for ensuring safe, convenient and commodious cycle access to, from, through and within railway stations provided or altered as part of the High Speed 2 project, nor for cycle parking or storage facilities at those stations; (c) does not ensure provision for safe, convenient and commodious cycling conditions at streetworks, or for the avoidance of disruption to cycle traffic in the course of those works; (d) does not include requirements for the provision of cycle spaces on trains intended to operate on the High Speed 2 railway, including people with disabilities who use pedal cycles as mobility aids; and (e) does not make sufficient provision to minimise the use of goods vehicles for Phase One purposes, or to ensure that goods vehicles used for Phase One purposes are operated and managed with the safety of cyclists and other vulnerable road users in mind, including the design and safety equipment of the vehicles, the training of their drivers and the routes employed.
- 8 For the foregoing and connected reasons your Petitioner respectfully submits that, unless the Bill is amended as proposed above, clauses 1, 3, 11, 15, 28, 33, 34 and 46, together with Schedules 1, 4, 14, 23, 24 and 31, so far affecting the interests represented by your Petitioner, should not be allowed to pass into law.
- 9 There are other clauses and provisions of the Bill which, if passed into law as they now stand will prejudicially affect your Petitioners’ interests for which no adequate provision is made to protect your Petitioners.

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore humbly pray your Honourable House that the Bill may not be allowed to pass into law as it now stands and that they may be heard by their Counsel, Agents and witnesses in support of the allegations of this Petition against so much of the Bill as affects the property, rights and interests of your Petitioners and in support of such other clauses and provisions as may be necessary or expedient for their protection, or that such other relief may be given to your Petitioner in the premises as your Honourable House shall deem meet.

AND your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

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PETITION OF CTC, the national cycling charity

AGAINST, By Counsel, &c.

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