

BOROUGH OF ROSELLE



RESOLUTION NUMBER 2007-126

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CITIZEN'S RESOLUTION FOR FREIGHT RAIL SAFETY FOR ROSELLE

WHEREAS, freight trains will be allowed to transport unidentifiable, unrestricted and unspecified cargo through the Borough of Roselle, and other Union County towns, without any impact studies having been done; and

WHEREAS, the M&E Railway is, by ten-year contract with only five years remaining, both the lessee of the Right of Way and the restorer of the rails. The 10.5 million dollars vouchered to the M&E for use of their "restoration" services does not include any third party, or even in-house, investigative testing of three major areas: ballasts, vibration, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, there has been no empirical study with regard to ballast/crosstie stress testing. The increased axle load on the railbed from petroleum tanker cars has not been tested for either the bearing capacity of the railbed or other load transfer characteristics; and

WHEREAS, in regard to vibration, there has been no study in Roselle of ground surface velocity, measuring the transfer of mobility from the track centerline to living spaces adjacent residences, schools, and a church, as well as the vibration effect on the gas pipeline within the State-owned Right of Way; and

WHEREAS, though the pipeline is regularly monitored by Sun Gas, the security and integrity of this pipeline has not been tested against the possible new, heavier, longer, and more frequent traffic stress and vibration caused by the freight trains; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Roselle, directly affected by the reactivation of this freight line, deserve the protection of the State, County, and Municipality, because Federal law indemnifies and protects the railway from being sued, no matter the loss of life, nor the extent of damage, and

WHEREAS, Roselle has a population density eight times the NJ State average; and

WHEREAS, Roselle must not become a "Graniteville, SC" or "Minot, ND" type of tragedy waiting to happen, because the density of population would make even a minor accident catastrophic; and

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WHEREAS, this railroad was out laid in woods just after the Civil War, and is now anticipated for use within feet of Roselle residents, to serve a modern-day global economy expected to triple in fewer than ten years; and

WHEREAS, there is no data which contra indicates the negative impact on the safety, environment, and quality of life in our community; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to study the costs, benefits, and safety of the SIRR short-line freight railroad expansion before any more State taxpayers' money is spent on the process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the borough of Roselle request of the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation, that the funding of the rehabilitation of the Staten Island RR be halted immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any further funding be suspended unless and until the necessary and sufficient studies of ballasts, vibration, and environmental impacts have been performed, producing verifiable data for the public record.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that corrective measures suggested by each study's verifiable data be implemented immediately, including the removal or debris, discarded rails, disguardred creosote ties, and mounds of coarse stone.

I, Rhona C. Bluestein, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Roselle, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Roselle, County of Union, State of New Jersey at a regular meeting of said Council held July 18, 2007.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Borough of Roselle in the County of Union and State of New Jersey this 18th day of July 2007.



BOROUGH OF ROSELLE

RHONA C. BLUESTEIN, MBA, RMC
BOROUGH CLERK

Rhona C. Bluestein, M.B.A., R.M.C.
Borough Clerk