BEFORE THE
GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Sandersville Railroad Company's Petition For Approval to Acquire Real Estate by Condemnation	**Docket No.: 45045**

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ELIZABETH SCOTT

to be presented as a panel consisting of
Members of the No Railroad in Our Community Coalition
& Others

August 25, 2023

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Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, OCCUPATION, AND ADDRESS.

A. My name is Elizabeth Scott. I am retired. I live at 182 Clayton Blvd., Sparta, GA 31087.

Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE COMMISSION?

A. No, I have not previously testified before the Commission.

Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU RESIDED AT 182 CLAYTON BLVD. IN SPARTA?

A. My mother purchased the land in the early 1980s. I have lived here since 1999.

Q. DESCRIBE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY AS IT EXISTS TODAY.

A. I live on a nice cul-de-sac where it is nice and quiet. Everybody knows everybody. I don't want anybody to change that. Quiet is important to me. I'm retired. I don't want noise aggravation.

Q. HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO REMAIN IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND IN SPARTA?

A. For as long as I can.

Q. WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE NO RAILROAD IN OUR COMMUNITY COALITION?

A. I have been to quite a few of their meetings at the church and their picketing in front of the courthouse, and things like that. I go to the picketing whenever they

call me and let me know they are having it. The Coalition has existed for about a year. I go to all their events when they let me know and I can.

Q. WHERE IS THE PROPOSED RAILROAD PROJECT LOCATED WITH RESPECT TO YOUR PROPERTY?

A. The proposed railroad would be about a football field away from the back of my property.

Q. WHAT DISTURBANCES, IF ANY, DO YOU EXPECT THE RAILROAD, THE EXPANDED QUARRY, AND ALL OTHER ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT WILL CAUSE TO YOUR PROPERTY?

A. I have cracks in my walls that I believe were caused by explosions from the quarry. I'm worried about breathing and both air and noise pollution. I am worried about the explosions and the ground shaking.

Q. WHAT DISTURBANCES, IF ANY, DO YOU EXPECT THE RAILROAD, THE EXPANDED QUARRY, AND ALL OTHER ASSOCIATED DEVELOPMENT WILL CAUSE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

A. This railroad would disturb the peace in my community. I do not think they will only use the railroad tracks once per day. I am worried about the train trips becoming very frequent and not being an occasional thing.

Q. ARE THERE OTHER REASONS YOU JOINED THE COALITION TO OPPOSE THE RAILROAD IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

A. It is important to me that the railroad not be built because it will destroy the character of the community. Big corporations are always attacking the little man,

the little homeowner – but we want to let them know that we have power and that we care about our community, and that they can't just come in and take what they want.

Q. IF THE RAILROAD IS NOT BUILT, WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR YOUR PROPERTY?

A. I hope to pass all my land to our family members intact, just as it was passed down to me through generations. I want to leave a legacy for my family, for my grandchildren, so they don't have to worry about where to stay and that they will always have somewhere to live.

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. Yes.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony via electronic mail and United States Mail with sufficient postage thereon to the following, pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 515-16-16-.02 and 515-2-1-.04(4)(b), (3), addressed as follows:

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Respectfully submitted this 25th day of August, 2023.

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