

November 21, 2007

Senator John Coursen  
P. O. Box 142  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Senator Coursen,

My name is Derald Edwards and I am the Administrator of the Lowman Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in White Rock, South Carolina. The Lowman Rehab and Healthcare Center is a 176-bed facility located on the Lowman Home campus, a Continuing Care Retirement Community. The campus also includes independent living, assisted living, and assisted living Alzheimer's. At any given time 400 or more residents are residing on our campus plus the employees needed to tend to their care.

Mr. Paul Addy, of 1321 Peace Haven Road, White Rock, visited with me several days ago and shared with me that CSX Railroad is planning to install a sidetrack across from the Lowman Home. This sidetrack will be used for railroad cars to be parked for indefinite periods of time. While I am aware that sidetracks may be needed as part of the railroad system, the location of a sidetrack in this area would raise an even greater concern than we have now with the issue of trains traveling through the area.

Mr. Addy shared with me his concerns about the noise pollution, air pollution, and increased train traffic that will occur if this track is built. He is not the only one with these concerns. Our concerns however go beyond these.

A sidetrack with a train car sitting idle on it could be transporting deadly chemicals. Such a scenario causes us great concern. Cars with chemicals sitting for long periods of time would put our residents and staff at a greater risk for a deadly spill than do cars traveling through the area. Should such a leak occur, desperate measures would have to be taken and more than likely, a total evacuation of the entire campus.

The evacuation of a campus such as ours would be a major undertaking, having to move and house residents in other locations. It would mean transporting many of their personal items, including but not limited to medications, medical equipment, mattresses and specialty mattresses, linens, food, etc. The list could go on and on. With such a major undertaking I am sure you have an appreciation for what we would have to go through.

We ask that you aid us in our work to stop this sidetrack from being built in the White Rock community to ensure the safety of the elderly residents who call Lowman their home. Our staff would greatly appreciate any and all support.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Derald H. Edwards, NHA, CRCFA  
Administrator