

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Hello Neighbors!!

THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CLAIMS THEY'LL TRY TO GET THE APPROPRIATIONS BILL PASSED THIS WEEK. IT COULD HAPPEN ANY DAY. PLEASE CONTACT OUR REPRESENTATIVES IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY. AND, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH NEIGHBORS WHO AREN'T ON THIS DISTRIBUTION LIST!!

Thanks, Joan and Alan Hawkins, Cindy and Craig Brodbeck

GREAT NEWS!!! WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN SOME IMPORTANT VICTORIES FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!!!

An appropriations bill that included funding for the Route 30/Harrisburg Pike Interchange Project and the Dillerville Rail Yard Relocation Project is on hold. The appropriations bill was approved by the House and Senate. But then the House approved the conference report (the report where the two chambers try to work out their differences), but the Senate refused to take it up. That means the bill may get re-written, and we may be able to influence some changes! It all will happen soon, so we must act quickly.

Background information:

1. High Industries and Manheim Township requested the funding for the Route 30/ Harrisburg Pike Interchange Project. They need this (and other) funding in order to move forward with the Conestoga Crossings project. An independent traffic engineer studied High's traffic study and testified at the public hearings. The independent traffic engineer found many problems with the High study and concluded that the \$25 million (our hard-earned tax dollars!!) would not bring much, if any, improvement to the local roads. If we don't stop them, High and Manheim Township may waste \$25 million on cosmetic changes so that they can move forward with their project and Manheim Township can reap all the tax profits!
2. John Fry/Franklin and Marshall College, requested the funding for the Dillerville Rail Yard Relocation project. F&M hopes to move the switching yard off their campus and into our backyards. Norfolk Southern wants to make the new yard larger than the current Dillerville switching yard. The switching yard is a threat to our neighborhood for many reasons (sound pollution, light pollution, ground vibrations, decrease in home values, etc.). But one of the most threatening risks is the diesel fumes. A recent study by California EPA regulators found air quality near a switching yard so bad that the cancer risk for residents closest to the rail yards was 180 times higher than the acceptable level. Children and the elderly are most at risk. Also, after 9/11 all of the most dangerous cargo (chemicals, etc.) that historically traveled

the I-95/CSX Baltimore, D.C.) was switched to the I-81/Norfolk Southern corridor. The rail professionals refer to this cargo as “Weapons of Mass Destruction”. This could be heading for our backyards...

Cindy Brodbeck states: “I spoke with Alex Gillen in the Transportation Department of the House Appropriations Committee. He informed me that we have about a week to make a difference. PLEASE TAKE ACTION NOW!!

Bill title:

H.R. 3074, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008

Project names, amounts, and sponsors:

1. Surface Transportation Priority/US Route 30-Harrisburg Pike Gateway Interchange Project, \$1,400,000, Senator Specter
2. Surface Transportation Priority/Dillerville Rail Yard Relocation, \$1,385,000, Senator Specter and Senator Casey

#### ACTION NEEDED

1. Call or write Senators Specter and Casey. Request that they eliminate these projects from the Appropriations bill and refuse to fund them. We can also urge them to conduct a study on a more appropriate (less residential) site for the switching yard.

Senator Arlen Specter  
711 Hart Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Main: 202-224-4254 (Ask for Matt Kelly.)  
Fax: 202-228-1229  
Web contact:

<http://specter.senate.gov/public/index.cfmFuseAction=Contact.ContactForm>

Senator Robert P. Casey  
383 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-6324 (Ask for Ed Williams. He returns to the office on Monday.)  
Toll Free: (866) 802-2833  
Fax: (202) 228-0604  
Web. Contact: <http://www.casey.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

2. Call or write Congressman Joe Pitts and request his continued support on these two projects. (He voted against the appropriations bill.)

Congressman Joe Pitts  
420 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(1<sup>st</sup> Street and Independence Avenue)  
Phone: 202 225-2411  
Fax: 202 225-2013  
Web contact: <http://www.house.gov/pitts/service/correspond.htm>

**MAKE SURE YOU MENTION THE BILL TITLE AND PROJECT TITLES**

3. Call the White House Comment Line. Tell them you want the President to veto the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Bill if he receives it in its current form.

Phone: 202-456-1111 or 202-456-1414

FYI: Because of the anthrax threat, regular “snail mail” takes approximately **THREE WEEKS** to reach the D.C. offices. Phone calls, faxes, and email are preferred!

**PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH FRIENDS WHO MIGHT SUPPORT OUR CAUSE!**

More to come!!

We'll be in touch soon. Funds have also been requested through the Governor's office.

Best Regards,  
Joan and Alan Hawkins  
Cindy and Craig Brodbeck