



News Article

Susan Kadis, M.P., Thornhill

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Advocating Good Neighbours

For the past 30 years, Thornhill has grown and built up in many areas that are in close proximity to the rail line corridor and rail yards. The main east-west CN line crosses Thornhill from one end to the other. The Thornhill diamond at Johnsville Village, Bayview Glen, Lakeview Estates, Concord West and the Aileen-Willowbrook locations are just some examples of residential neighbourhoods that are impacted by railway operations. In the past 10 years alone, rail activity has increased and there have been a growing number of complaints from residents regarding noise, pollution and vibration emanating from rail way use 24/7. During a recent period of construction, I received a number of complaints from residents about the unreasonable noise occurring at all hours of the night. Although CN is a private corporation, I actively advocated on behalf of the local residents directly with CN senior officials to find a practical and sensible solution.

I am pleased to have worked toward strengthening a Bill, passed in the last session of Parliament, which mandated the establishment of guidelines to restrict noise and vibration from railway operations and construction to a reasonable level. Since the Bill's passage, I have been actively working with residents, ratepayer associations and local Municipal Councillors to ensure that their concerns and issues would be front and centre in the development of these new guidelines. When it became clear that the period of consultation was too short for groups to make meaningful contributions, I immediately contacted the Minister of Transportation to request an extension to allow for greater resident participation. The Minister granted an additional 10 weeks. At the end of the day, residents who live in close proximity to rail lines deserve fair and reasonable treatment and we look forward to the establishment of an effective recourse in order to address serious resident complaints for noise, vibration and adverse impacts due to the railway. If you would like further information on this or any federal matter, please call me at (905) 886-9911 or e-mail me at Kadis.S@parl.gc.ca . Your valuable input continues to be very important to me.