



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

GEOFFREY HALL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
AYER - PRECINCT 2
HARVARD, LITTLETON, WESTFORD

September 29, 2000

Chairman
Committee on State Administration
ROOM 34, STATE HOUSE
TEL. (617) 722-2320

JOANNE BARNETT
STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. David A. Fink, Exec. V.P.
Guilford Transportation Co.
Iron Horse Park
No. Billerica, MA 01862

Re: Over-Extended Parking of Freight Cars and Offensive Noise of Freight Car Coupling During Unreasonable Night/Early Morning Hours

Dear Mr. Fink:

This is to bring your personal attention to a re-occurring problem in the Graniteville/Forge Village area that has been the source of concern and complaint of residents over the past 15 years more or less. People normally do not bring their complaints to us frivolously; they do so when they are particularly offended, angry and frustrated over an issue.

The matter of using that stretch of tracks in Graniteville as a substitute freight yard has been the subject of correspondence and meetings we have had in the past. The freight cars should be banned permanently from parking in this densely populated neighborhood. They not only represent a public danger, particularly to curious children, but using this location for transferring freight cars during nighttime hours, normal sleeping hours for most people, is grossly disturbing to the public peace and tranquility.

The noises from running engines, the bumping and coupling of cars resound for miles around, interfering with residents ability to rest. Residents reported to us that recently they had to endure freight car bumping from 2:45 a.m. to 5:45 a.m. Residents of both communities are again demanding that something be done to eliminate the uncorrected dangers and the concomitant abuse of their entitled peace.

RECEIVED
TOWN MANAGER
OCT - 2 2000
 FYI
 REVIEW & COMMENT

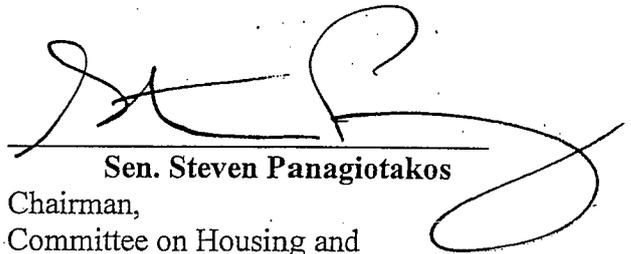
We recognize, as you informed an assistant during a telephone conversation, that you have a business to run and intend to do so. But business entities are also part of a greater community. It is good business to be sensitive as much as possible to neighbors honest complaints; a "public be damned" response is counterproductive as well as outmoded.

It would seem that for the sake of improved public relations, it would be a worthwhile business investment on your company's part to resolve nagging issues before they escalate. In this case, a resolution could be accomplished by your directing a search for a more secluded site in the region, away from residential areas, to conduct freight car transfers and parking. The residents cannot move their operations, but your organization has that flexibility. We hope you, as a businessman, will consider our comments objectively. They are respectfully offered for mutual benefit to all parties. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Rep. Geoffrey D. Hall
Chairman
Committee on State Administration



Sen. Steven Panagiotakos
Chairman,
Committee on Housing and

Urban Development

Cc: S. Ledoux, Westford Town Manager