

To Denver City Councilmembers:

My name is Debbie Gomez and my husband is Louis, we have lived in the Swansea neighborhood for over 50 years. We raised our three children and grandchildren in this area. Everyday we are reminded that the railroad tracks are very nearby because of the noise and the rumbling, crashing of the train cars as they change direction or are off loaded, the vibration of the ground as they pass through the area and the horns as they blast their arrival to the York street intersection. We have in the past been involved in a toxic spill that caused us a need to evacuate our home for safety reasons. This spill lead to a class action suit that was filed because of a lack of proper notification by the railroad to the public. I support this effort to ensure that my neighborhood and others are not exposed to dangerous substances and toxic chemicals that are shipped on these railroads daily with no concern for public safety and health.

Therefore I am contacting you on behalf of my family and nearby residents from Swansea that live very close to freight rail tracks; to strongly urge your support for Council Bill No. 22-1102 to regulate development near these rail corridors in our city.

The proposed ordinance would reduce risks that rail accidents carrying flammable liquids and other hazardous materials; would have on occupied structures within the 100' as defined in the ordinance. The 100' buffer will also increase space to respond to and contain accidents when they occur, promoting safety of railroad employees and the general public along freight rail corridors. Please vote in support of this bill to protect lives and maintain safety for all citizens of Denver that live near railroads.

Thank you,

Louis and Debbie Gomez  
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