
Representative Cedric Richmond
506 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Gretna Railroad Concerns

Representative Richmond,

It has come to my attention that the New Orleans and Gulf Coast Railway Co. (NOGC) plans to expand their rail operations in Gretna. NOGC is planning to create a new rail alignment and transmit six-unit trains of crude oil through Gretna in response to the proposed Plaquemines Liquids Terminal. NOGC's proposed new track and added volume will have a considerable adverse impact on my quality of life, health and safety.

Gretna already has some of the most unsafe rail-urban conditions in the country, with some of the nation's highest concentration of unprotected crossings and longstanding street running conditions for which train conductors regularly have to stop the train and ask people to move their cars. NOGC has had two derailments in the past months; imagine if those had been tank cars carrying crude oil or hazardous materials. Our emergency services response has always been impacted by the train conditions in Gretna, but the added volume will at times isolate an entire section of our City from any emergency services. We simply cannot tolerate this added volume of rail traffic in our community.

I am requesting that your office explore all regulatory options and assist our local leadership in identifying funds to support the agreed upon LA 23 Rail Relocation alternative. I want to see the Westbank become a more prosperous place to live, but it cannot be at the expense of my community.

Sincerely,
