

## **Railroad hub: Be thankful for the new jobs**

How many jobs or businesses have to leave this area before we wake up? The Norfolk Southern Railroad has offered a gift horse. But what do I hear about it? Complaining and griping concerning its coming to Birmingham. The latest concerns the elementary school in McCalla. Did not the railroad promise buffers?

I wish the railroad could bring this to Vestavia Hills and Hoover. Who is offering as many jobs in an economy that is losing good jobs?

I am sorry I don't live in McCalla. Apparently, people there make enough money that jobs really do not matter. They talk about their homes dropping in value. That is bunk. When Hyundai came to Montgomery, my cousins who lived a quarter of a mile away had their property values jump 50 percent. People often want to live near their work.

All you have to do is drive to Moody. That is where the new Red Diamond Coffee Plant is located. Moody residents are proud of the addition. It is sad, however. It could have been in Birmingham.

**John W. Brigman**

*Birmingham*

## **YOUR VIEWS: Railroad hub: NIMBY threatens school revenue**

Posted by [Letter writers](#) August 30, 2009 5:30 AM

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Many thanks to The News and staff writer Michael Tomberlin for the excellent story Aug. 16 on the Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility proposed for McCalla. We need to realize that if this "not-in-my-backyard" mentality keeps growing against industrial expansion, we will have to beg China for the revenue to operate our school systems.

In a county that is near bankruptcy, opposition to a multimillion-dollar new tax base is akin to opposing a tax on alcohol that goes to the Education Trust Fund because we don't like drinking.

Let's be realistic, Jefferson County: Schools operate because of tax revenue. Tax revenue comes from business and industry locally. There is not much need to have a cart if you don't have a horse.

**J.W. Traylor**

*Vestavia Hills*

## **Railroad hub: Not all residents opposed to plan**

From listening to the TV and reading your newspaper, one would think everyone in McCalla is against the Norfolk Southern Intermodal Facility. This is simply not true.

Norfolk Southern has addressed the issues raised by property owners in the general area of the railway works: the noise, the pollution, safety and, most recently, the fear "a truck driver might go to McAdory Elementary School and snatch my child." No matter what opponents say about concerns for the school, the bottom line is they are understandably fearful of losing some of the value of their property.

At a recent pro-Norfolk Southern meeting, a real-estate agent serving on many committees, some national, refuted the idea that property values will drop, citing several examples to prove the point. A former member of the Jefferson County Board of Equalization said commercial zoning near residential property often results in high residential values. Both cautioned that property owners who persist in pointing to the negative will have the potential of "red-lining" the neighborhood.

Norfolk Southern is the first business to move into McCalla and ask what it can do for the community. McDonald's, Publix, Target and others have made no effort to contact the community.

We are looking forward to partnering with Norfolk Southern for the betterment of the community, with more jobs, new ballparks and other amenities.

**Rebecca Moore Earnest**

*McCalla*