

Nov 13, 2024

Chair Redman and Members of Regional Council

Mayor Salonen and Members of Township Council

**RE: TRUMP'S TARRIFFS SHOULD "KILL" THE WILMOT LAND ASSEMBLY**

The American election will result in a significant shift of international and global economics. Based on election promises and the strong mandate he received from all sectors, the USA is poised to refocus internally and in so doing will become more protectionist of American jobs and American manufacturing and less involved with global affairs. Trump has attacked immigration, Mexico's cheaper labor, China's imports and he is threatening NATO, less military aid to Ukraine and less aid elsewhere. His goal is to now isolate the USA and become more self-reliant together with major tariffs being proposed on imports.

Any proposal to now move forward with a new "Mega Industry" in Ontario or elsewhere outside of the USA is extremely risky and unlikely to succeed. Investing the billions of dollars needed for a new battery plant or automotive assembly plant and the much-needed infrastructure is completely contrary to the new "Build in the USA" agenda of the Trump administration. The private sector will certainly not proceed to build outside the USA and our tax dollars should not be wasted on creating shovel ready lands for a vacant, unoccupied and undesirable mega site in the middle of nowhere. This initiative is now simply no longer viable.

I understand that there is no factory identified for the Wilmot Assembly, No one is waiting in the wings to build now and any such building is highly unlikely in the future given this "isolation objective" south of the border.

So why continue??? Please cancel the Wilmot land assembly, as we have more than enough employment lands to meet our Provincial targets to 2051 and the need for and the success of this mega site is clearly no longer in place.

John Ariens,  