

APPENDIX K

DELEGATION TO WILMOT TOWNSHIP COUNCIL ON THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSED HALMAN PIT GRAVEL MINE BY MARILYN HAY, COUNCIL OF CANADIANS 4 APRIL 2022

Good evening. I am here this evening as the Chair of the Kitchener-Waterloo Chapter of Council of Canadians, as well as the national Board member representing the interests of Chapters in Ontario and Quebec and, finally, as the Co-chair of the National Board. The Council of Canadians stands for the interests of People, Planet and Democracy, all of which are of concern this evening. Let's be clear: there is absolutely no need for yet another gravel pit in Waterloo Region, particularly given that none of the half dozen others in the area are being mined anywhere near capacity; this is a private sector profit grab, pure and simple, but at what cost?

For the People, the children and adults of Shingletown, the fine aggregate in the air would put their health at considerable risk from inhaling particulates so microscopic that they will invade lungs and blood vessels of everyone who lives there; this can have dire impacts on cognitive capacity over time. For the people of Waterloo Region, the mining in this area would compromise the natural filtration of our groundwater, upon which we rely totally for our current and future water supplies. For the taxpayers of the Township and Region, the massive wear and tear of enormously heavy vehicles for six to twelve hours a day, six days a week, will damage roads that were never built for such use.

From the perspective of the environmental wellbeing of our Planet here in Ontario, it's no secret that Ontario already mines 13 times the gravel ever needed or utilized in the province. Where these mines have been opened, even when only mined to limited capacity, they play havoc with groundwater supplies in 'washing' the aggregate (and producing those fine particulates that are so dangerous) and compromise the watersheds, waterways, rivers, creeks and groundwater filtration that both urban and rural users depend upon. This is an enormously high environmental cost to pay to support the speculative profit of a few developers.

Finally, from a Democracy perspective, surely the rights and health of urban and rural taxpayers and residents for clean air and water now and into the future – especially given the risks and unknowns presented by ever-escalating climate change – outweigh the interests of private sector speculators hoping for profit from totally unnecessary gravel mines.

I hope the Council will refuse to amend the bylaws, thereby blocking this superfluous and dangerous mine. I would submit that no future permits be approved, and that a full moratorium on all new excavations be implemented, until there is a comprehensive provincial study to examine the actual future needs for gravel mining in the Province of Ontario. Such a study would, of necessity, consider the full environmental impacts of any future gravel pit approvals.

Thank you for your time this evening.