

## APPENDIX J

### Helen Schroeder's Delegation

Good evening, my name is Helen Schroeder and my husband's name is Ralph Schroeder. We have lived at 2106 Bleams Rd. in Shingletown for 27 years now and have felt truly blessed to live in this community. I'd like to give you some background as to how we came to live here, and would like to express my concern surrounding the Hallman gravel pit proposal. As local residents in Shingletown we are concerned about the effect putting in a pit so close to our homes will ultimately have, if this is approved. I cannot believe that we are here today to discuss this issue and that it has come as far as it has, given the protest of the community thus far. We don't need nor want a gravel pit beside our homes.

I have been a citizen of Wilmot Township since 1975. Growing up, I lived with my family in New Hamburg for 15 years, and my mother, brother and daughter still live there. I attended schools in New Hamburg and Waterloo Oxford in Baden for high school. We moved away for a few years to Kitchener, but we were both so happy when the opportunity to buy the family property from Ralph's grandparents in 1995 became possible. We were so excited to be raising our own three children in Wilmot Township and having them be part of the thriving and loving community for their childhood. We believed it would be the perfect place for them to grow up. It felt like coming home for me, since it was a vision that I had always had for my family.

We have a 20 acre property located directly North of the proposed Hallman gravel pit owned by Rick Esbaugh. We would have a direct line of sight to the land that will be mined for the next 30 plus years. Right now, it's a quiet, beautiful farmland, which can be seen for kilometres. We rent 15 acres of our own land to a neighboring farmer. We are concerned about losing the enjoyment of this idyllic and agricultural environment. Instead we would be staring at a huge berm, listen to loud machinery, feel vibrations, see extra traffic coming through, and try to deal with dust and potentially contaminated water.

Another problem that we have with the proposed pit are the health concerns; I suffer from asthma, and I also know some of my neighbours struggle with breathing issues. I worry that the fine particulates from the excavations and extra diesel from the trucks and excavators in the air may trigger and exacerbate an already sensitive condition that I have. I am also annoyed about the extra noise (and there will be extra noise), such as the constant beeping of heavy machinery, dump trucks and vibrations that would carry into our community. There would be no reprieve, given the hours the pit will be running. I know the noise will happen, since a neighbour closer to us has had clean fill being delivered for the last few years, and we would hear the trucks as clear as day in our backyard. Environmental concerns are at an alltime high. Why are we still talking about this pit being placed right next to a residential area affecting land, air and water quality as well as quality of life for Shingletown? Not only that, it poses a safety threat for our children, who may think it would be a good idea to explore a gravel pit. A simple berm would not be sufficient protection. Access to it wouldn't be that difficult for them.

The threat of this pit has caused undue and unnecessary stress during COVID, when we have been concerned about our personal health. In order to survive the pandemic, many of us saw our homes as a place of refuge, a place to replenish and a place to keep up safe and healthy. The threat of this pit has already caused distress to the long-term residents. The number of home sales since this pit proposal has been in play in Shingletown has been noticeable and

alarming, since some are seeing that there is no choice and it's better to get out while it's still good. This is a community of people who have been here for 30 or more years. It is such a shame that your taxpayers feel so shaken to remain in what has been their lifelong home. Through conversations with my neighbours, people are clearly unsettled and worried that the township will let us down and approve the pit. It is way too close to us. In your procedural bylaw for council protocols, the following points are listed as the duties of the council:

- a) to represent the public and to consider the well being and interests of the Township;
- b) to develop and evaluate policies and programs of the Township;

Through media coverage, some members of the township council have implied that you don't have a choice, which I feel is very short-sighted. I challenge that notion of choice, since the citizens and neighbours of your community chose and elected you to represent the citizens and do what's best for Wilmot Township. More importantly, we are a vast, rich resource of groundwater, which is a supply for the larger community of Waterloo Region. The term "council" comes from the Latin meaning *a meeting, a gathering of people*. It is the notion of a calling together. If this gravel pit goes in, we will know that the township is not working together with the citizens of this community. We have been long-time taxpayers for this community. If this is approved, the council is breaking our trust for the future. Our words should matter to you. Time and time again, Citizens for Safe Groundwater have done their research to clearly show you the overwhelmingly negative consequences of placing a gravel pit, where natural resources such as good farmland, natural habitats and safe groundwater need to be preserved and taken care of. We already have enough gravel pits. We do not need anymore gravel pits. Additionally Mr. Esbaugh continues to push the envelope with asphalt and concrete recycling, which were not in the initial proposal. How can you rehabilitate land from those types of activities? It seems unlikely it would be successfully done, and the land pays for it, along with the residents. It also means more trucks, noise and potential water and air contamination. Please try on the shoes of the people of Wilmot and walk for a while, and see how you might feel having a gravel pit in your back or front yard. We implore you to please maintain our beautiful community and consider the long term and irreversible damage that allowing this pit would cause. Any future pits should be located away from already established residences, so that our community remains beautiful and safe to live, and continues to be a place where families would want to raise future generations. It is unfair and unjust to place the wants of one corporate individual over the needs of an entire residential community. I hope that you will consider our health and well-being carefully. You are our last hope to stop this. Thank you for your time and willingness to listen.

Ralph Schroeder's Delegation

My name is Ralph Schroeder and I live at 2106 Bleams Rd. in Shingletown with my wife Helen, whom you have heard speak earlier. As my wife said, I am also opposed to the Hallman Gravel Pit proposal. Thank you.