



October 7, 2020,
321 Kingscross Drive,
King City ON L7B1J9

To York Region Chair and Members of Council,

Re: Item H 2.2. Potential for Employment lands along 400 series highways report

Our organization has been involved with and concerned about York Region's existing diversion of Georgian Bay (part of Lake Huron) water to Lake Ontario since the early 1990's when York Region put in place the existing diversion of Lake Ontario water to north Aurora – part of the Georgian Bay watershed. (We were pleased when plans were drafted to reduce that diversion by building a very high-level sewage treatment plant south of Lake Simcoe and reducing significantly the diversion of Lake Huron water into the Lake Ontario watershed that includes Lake Simcoe. However, that plan has yet to be implemented.)

But to now even propose development plans north of King Road and north along the Highway 400 corridor is very concerning. This would open up areas that currently do not have municipal water and sewer servicing and would force an expansion and increase in the existing Aurora north, undesirable diversion of Great Lakes water. This is contrary to both the Great Lakes Annex Agreement (of which I was a member of the Annex Agreement Advisory Panel) and it is contrary to the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty that does not allow any diversion or increase in diversion of Great Lakes water from one Great Lake to another. Any increase in the Aurora north diversion over to Highway 400 would require the approval of the International Joint Commission and the Great Lakes Governor's Council.

Aside from the regulatory issues of this proposal, we are sure you are aware of the extreme ecological harm of building pipes for water and sewer lines through Moraine and Greenbelt lands. Since the groundwater is so close to the surface, the only way pipes can be built is to de-water the sites. This deprives local wetlands, including vernal pool wetlands, of water – essential breeding habitat for many species of frogs, salamanders and turtles including Species At Risk. Existing private wells are threatened, and the only solution would be to close private wells and also increase the diversion. And as you likely know, the extensive stormwater drainage that would be required would also be diverted down to Lake Ontario.



So from both a legal and ecological perspective our organization is opposed to this proposal to expand Employment Lands north of King Road along the Highway 400 corridor and recommends that York Region Council vote in opposition to this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of all of the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Muter".

Mary Muter, Chair, Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation and Vice Chair,
Restore Our Water International. 905 833 2020

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