

From: Maral Mehran

Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:18 PM

To: Regional Clerk <ClerkGeneralLine@york.ca>; Emmerson, Wayne <Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca>; dave.barrow <dave.barrow@richmondhill.ca>; joe.dipaola <joe.dipaola@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: PLEASE STOP HIGHWAY 413

Hello and thank you for the opportunity to have my voice heard,

I am a young professional working in the public service, with an academic background in impact assessment. I grew up in Richmond Hill, ON. I have, without a doubt, an invested and informed perspective that I hope will be taken seriously and considered equally to economic interests (which, by the way, have led us to this catastrophic moment in human history).

The York Region has been a haven for developers and not at all for local citizens, for communities, for sustainability. Highway 413, cutting through the Holland Marsh, is a terrible, irresponsible, and reckless idea. Without at the very least an impact assessment (which, by the way, is the democratic and best practice thing to do based on every informed expert perspective across the globe), you are robbing the region of its multitude of voices and placing all power in the hands of a provincial government that does not represent us all, and in the hands of their developer lobbyist counterparts.

If sustainability, democratic principles, or the basic desire to protect beautiful natural environments are not your priority, then at least consider this: megaprojects like this have consistently seen significant political backlash and public outrage over the past decade (just ask Premier Horgan about Site C). The amount of money the Crown and proponents have spent on litigation, at the expense of their stakeholders and taxpayers, is astonishing. Even if you want this highway to go through, you are making a huge mistake by not at least requiring an impact assessment - a federal one specifically. How can a project like this be decided by a handful of politicians who, frankly, do not have the expertise to understand the impacts?

Climate change costs you money. Climate change will cost your children their futures. Nobody on this planet questions anymore that individual traffic is a major contributor. Please oppose Highway 413 and demand a federal impact assessment. Please make an informed decision, driven by scientific evidence and democratic principles.

Thank you,

Maral Mehran