



Hamilton-Wentworth Federation of Agriculture
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City of Hamilton
Planning & Development Department
Development and Real Estate Division (Legislative Approvals)
City Hall, 71 Main St W
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Attention: Stan Holiday- Senior Planner, MCIP, RPP.

Re: Lowndes Holdings Corp. aggregate development application OPA-04-17 and ZAC-04-89 for a Greenfield quarry operation.

The HWFA on behalf of its membership, are concerned about the proposed aggregate development and are opposing the application.

The subject lands fall within the rural area and were zoned **Agricultural** and **Conservation Management**. These original purposes - farming and land stewardship and the protection of the environmentally significant features - these have now been reaffirmed by the Greenbelt Act and its companion plan. The lands fall within the Protected Countryside and its Natural Heritage system and the approval of this would result in the loss of over 300 acres of viable farmland, as well as, additional acreage of interconnected conservation lands.

Agriculture is one, if not the largest, private land use in the area, making farmers important land stewards for ecological and hydrological features, whether through individual practices or participation in conservation authority stewardship programs.

With neighboring conservation authority and management tract lands, among others agricultural open spaces comprise a significant portion of the Greenbelt in this area, providing watershed protection and habitat for concentrations of birds, plants, and wildlife. An estimated 50-60 farm operations exist in the proposed area.

Some of the potential negative impacts on these farms would be;
Water quantity and quality. Wells both private and community.
Airborne particulate and dust.
Livestock stress.
Traffic. 1000+ truck trips per day.

These local farms contribute to the local and regional food supply to our communities and municipal tax base. Beyond the direct value of their products, the infrastructure required to produce them, also contributes dollars every year to the local economy and tax base.

It is for the fundamental reason noted above that the HWFA is opposed to the Lowndes Holding Corp application for aggregate development in the Flamborough (Hamilton) area.

Council needs to consider the negative impact of this proposed development on existing, and future, agricultural operations in the area. Ultimately agriculture and our natural heritage features will only survive and thrive if we all actively support and protect them.

If Council values this land and Flamborough's farm and natural heritage, if you share the HWFA's belief that the preservation of viable farms and agricultural lands for local food production, open space and wildlife habitat benefits all of us, we ask that you honor the existing Official Plan and Zoning By-law.

Sincerely,

Robert Pasuta
President
Hamilton Wentworth Federation of Agriculture
Rp/dj

Cc: Mayor City of Hamilton Larry Di Ianni
All Members of Council – Hamilton City Hall
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee – Susan Coverdale
Ministry of Agriculture and Food–Carol Pupo Regional Information Coordinator.
Ontario Federation of Agriculture - Ron Bonnett President
Paul Mistele Vice President
Harry Brander County Liaison

Ted McMeekin MPP
Jennifer Mossop MPP
Russ Powers MP
Graham Flint Chairman - FORCE