

February 19, 2007

Mr. Gordon Miller
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
1075 Bay Street, Suite 605
TORONTO, ON
M5S 2B1
Email: Gord.Miller@eco.on.ca



Dear Mr. Commissioner:

By e-mail: EBR Section 61 Application for Review

On behalf of our communities, please find attached the Section 61 Application for Review, as per the *Environmental Bill of Rights*, of the need for a new policy/Act/regulation from Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE).

As you may be aware, Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment (FORCE) is a federally registered not for profit corporation. It is a citizen-based advocacy group with hundreds of supporters in Kilbride, Campbellville, Mountsberg, Freelon, and Carlisle – communities located in rural Burlington, Milton and Hamilton. FORCE was formed in June 2004 to protect our natural and built environments in the face of a proposed large-scale, below the established groundwater table, aggregate development by St Marys CBM (formerly Lowndes Holdings Corp.) in the Northeast Flamborough portion of the amalgamated City of Hamilton. We note upfront that our organization is neither anti-aggregate nor anti-road; indeed, our area is home to some of Ontario and Canada's largest aggregate operations. We do, however, have significant issues with the pending application in its proposed location for substantive reasons; reasons that relate to ground water protection for municipal and private well systems, active and productive agricultural operations, acknowledged fragile natural systems within the Greenbelt, and existing rural communities.

We also believe that our organization has a responsibility to promote good government in the municipal and provincial arenas and therefore, we have a responsibility to input into the broader planning reform processes which bear upon the application processes for development proposals such as the one before our communities. Despite reforms to land use planning and other policies, we believe that the application review process still does not serve the environment well and that it is counter to participatory democracy given the extremely intensive investment in time, human and financial resources for average citizens. Ergo, we are making an application for review of policy and legislative instruments to study the need for and workability of an early mechanism through which proposals could be evaluated and screened before they are entered into the existing process for evaluation and approvals by municipal jurisdictions and relevant provincial agencies.

We believe that the request is self-explanatory but should you, or your staff, have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly at 905-659-5417 or at info@stopthequarry.ca. Most of the reports, documents and other papers referenced herein have been made available through on-line access at our community website www.StopTheQuarry.ca in order to minimize use of paper resources and to minimize cost. The specific url as well as relevant menu directions are provided to facilitate easy access to the material by ECO reviewers. Any material not available on-line has been attached as an enclosure to this application.

We appreciate your consideration of same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Flint". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

Graham Flint BAsC, P. Eng
Chair & Spokesperson

Enclosures

