



Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Environment,
Conversation and Parks
VIA EMAIL:
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Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
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Township of Puslinch
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November 7, 2024

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Agriculture,
Food, and Agribusiness
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Hon. Matthew Rae, MPP
VIA EMAIL:
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Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP
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Barclay Nap
Wellington Federation of
Agriculture
VIA EMAIL:
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RE: Motion for the Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development in Relation to Provincial Projects and Excess Soil Management Practices

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on October 23, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-378: Moved by Councillor Hurst and
Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

Whereas the provincial government is undertaking:

- a) significant road and underground projects over the next ten years which will generate significant excess soil to be managed and disposed; and
- b) studies of underground projects that if implemented will also generate significant excess soil: and



Whereas landfill sites across Ontario are already near capacity, necessitating amendments to legislation to allow certain quality soil to be disposed at excess soil reuse sites instead of being disposed of in landfills effective January 1, 2025; and

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is currently under resourced and lacks the capacity to effectively manage the additional enforcement and oversight required for the relocation of excess soil; and

Whereas the responsibility to enforce and oversee excess soil regulations is being downloaded onto municipalities, which have limited enforcement capabilities and face the risk of significant costs being passed on to local taxpayers; and

Whereas contamination of existing soil and groundwater is a significant concern, particularly in rural municipalities with valuable agricultural lands and reliance on groundwater for its residents; and

Whereas agricultural lands must be prioritized equally with housing needs, roads and underground infrastructure; failure to adequately protect these lands could exacerbate the ongoing food crisis in Ontario; and

Whereas Ontario is not alone in navigating the challenges of sustainable development, and the United Nations provides guidance through its Sustainable Development Report, which includes goals focused on economic growth, infrastructure, sustainable communities, hunger, clean water and sanitation, climate action, and life on land; and

Whereas it is critical that governments consider the comprehensive impacts on all of these areas when conducting feasibility studies and implementing projects which generate excess soil; and

Whereas neglecting to account for the broader implications of projects may lead to negative outcomes;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Township of Puslinch calls on the provincial government to:



1. Prioritize the protection of agricultural lands in the management of excess soil from roads and underground projects and in the planning and feasibility studies related to such projects.
2. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the MECP to support effective enforcement and oversight of excess soil regulations.
3. Collaborate with municipalities to provide necessary support and funding for enforcement activities related to excess soil management, minimizing financial burdens on local taxpayers.
4. Conduct a comprehensive impact assessment that considers all aspects of sustainable development, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Report, before proceeding with the traffic tunnel project and any further amendments to excess soil legislation; and

That the Township of Puslinch Council direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Premier of Ontario; all Ontario municipalities; MPP Arnott; MPP Rae; the Wellington Federation of Agriculture; and OMAFRA requesting support for the protection of agricultural lands and sustainable development practices in Ontario.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities