



Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

Ferguson Block, 11th Floor

77 Wellesley St. West, Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Dear Mr. Phillips,

In the middle of April, over 1800 letters came your way from people in London, Oxford, Norfolk, Middlesex and adjoining regions, informing you of their opposition to the dump proposed by Walker alongside the Thames River. At the end of April, in one weekend, over 840 letters were signed. That's a pretty clear message.

To date, print letters alone – not including emails, phone calls, post cards and more – have totalled over 119 000 asking the government to stop Walker's dump. The reasons why people sign the letters are many and various. Often the letters are accompanied by added comments. It is clear that you have been given more than enough reasons to refuse Walker's plan to put 17.4 million tonnes of trash too close to water for comfort.

The Safe Drinking Water Act tells us that a reasonable person should have no fear of drinking their water. It's amazing how often talk of Walkerton's toxic legacy comes up when we talk about the ground and surface water risks involved in building a dump in the Thames River's headwaters.

It would be reasonable for you to tell Walker clearly that their planned dump will not go forward. I look forward to hearing that announcement.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:



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Dear Mr. Phillips,

Canada's reputation as a good neighbour and world citizen has recently taken quite the hit! 103 containers of Canadian trash, shipped by an Ontario firm, to the

Philippines are unwelcome there. Why would anyone imagine that Filipinos would want to host "odorous" and "contaminated waste" shipped there by Chronic Plastics of Whitby?

Similarly, why would anyone in Southwestern Ontario want to host mixed waste – residential, industrial, commercial, institutional trash– knowing that it may contain toxic elements like CFL bulbs laden with mercury, batteries with corrosives, or other household hazardous waste? Yet, Walker Industries proposes to do just that -ship 17.4 millions of tonnes of waste into Oxford County! No!

Walker is estimating that they will haul 170 or more trucks of waste into rural Ontario on a daily basis. That means that the international crisis from 2013 and 2014 around 103 loads will be repeated every single day if Walker is allowed to have their way.

Instead, you could show the way to a better, a Made-in-Ontario Environmental Plan, where garbage would not ruin the countryside. I invite you to say "No" to Walker before the disaster begins. Stop the dump, now, thanks, before it begins.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address:



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Dear Mr. Phillips,

You may have read Jennifer Well's article in the Toronto Star on April 27th where she talks about "Canada's odious, and odorous, reputation" for trash. The GTA, Toronto and its surrounding municipalities have a garbage problem. Sadly for the world outside that area, Toronto wants to ship it "out of sight and out of mind".

I am writing you to remind you that garbage doesn't go away. Walker Industries plans to ship garbage from Toronto to Oxford County. In response to that "odious and odorous" idea, people all over Southwestern Ontario have been kicking up a stink. We say "No" to antiquated and ultimately destructive ideas: using the 401 as a garbage chute for Toronto's waste can only continue to trash Ontario's reputation.

That is why I invite you to move forward swiftly with new and appropriate technologies and systems to reduce waste, to eradicate litter, to push producers to full responsibility for products. That would include, of course, refusing Walker's dump plan. Their plan is to pummel the 401 with 340 truck trips a day, to punish people who make a real effort at zero waste by dumping urban waste on them, and to add insult to injury by hauling contaminated dirt to layer into the garbage. That's extremely dangerous, odious and you should prevent it.

Sincerely,

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Dear Mr. Phillips,



Have a look at this crash scene near Brampton! It is not hard to imagine that people were seriously injured. And though you may think this is something that the Ministry of Transportation could solve alone, I invite you to be part of the solution by eliminating more than 340 trash truck trips daily on the 401. Garbage trucks are among the most dangerous on the roads in Ontario.

Walker plans to ship trash across Southern Ontario and to fill other trucks with contaminated soils and to dump that waste into the ground water in a quarry near Beachville, Ontario. A Made-in-Ontario Environmental Plan would plan to radically reduce the travel by trash to zero in short order. You could plan to do that by encouraging garbage producers and haulers to take full product responsibility for preventing, sorting, recovering, recycling and reducing waste. In fact, your plan suggests that.

Please accelerate your plan to protect the environment and the people of Ontario by putting the brakes on Walker's dump plan.

Sincerely,

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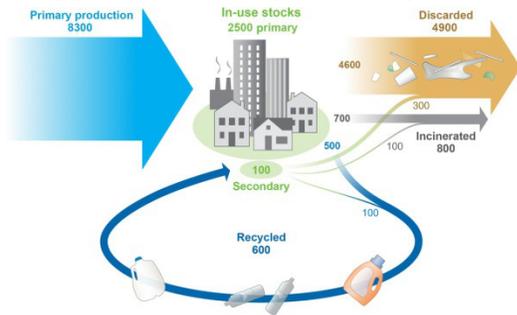
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Dear Mr. Phillips,

According to an article in Science Advances magazine, plastics are increasing everywhere in our environment. In fact, Roland Geyer, Jenna R. Jambeck and Kara Lavender Law state that

The vast majority of monomers used to make plastics, such as ethylene and propylene, are derived from fossil hydrocarbons. None of the commonly used plastics are biodegradable. As a result, they accumulate, rather than decompose, in landfills or the natural environment. [...] Thus, near-permanent contamination of the natural environment with plastic waste is a growing concern. Plastic debris has been found in all major ocean basins, with an estimated 4 to 12 million metric tons (Mt) of plastic waste generated on land entering the marine environment in 2010 alone. Contamination of freshwater systems and terrestrial habitats is also increasingly reported, as is environmental contamination with synthetic fibers. Plastic waste is now so ubiquitous in the environment that it has been suggested as a geological indicator of the proposed Anthropocene era.

Up to 80% of all plastics ever created are in dumps and the environment. And it is evident that plastics are everywhere in the environment. This is not just because plastics are littered all over the landscape, but also because those which are dumped into landfills also infiltrate water and land. All dump liners leak. So, the micro-plastics and those dissolved by discarded solvents end up in the water. Even the leaky plastic liners are part of the problem since they are plastic too. Walker's dump plan does that.



It is imperative that the burial of waste be stopped. Otherwise, plastics will continue to build up in water and land. Recycling is a good idea but the authors note that only “9% have been recycled, only 10% of which have been recycled more than once” meaning that .9% of plastics are being recovered for multiple reuses. Deposits on plastic containers might improve that. Bans on some kinds of

plastics such as Styrofoam might help. Modern technologies might help. But Walker's dump is, as one scientist has said, “the worst possible dump in the worst possible place” near ground and surface water in prime farmland. Please stop it before it does yet more harm to the environment.

Sincerely,

Name:

Address: