

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

5th Floor, 777 Bay Street, ON, M7A 2J3

Telephone: 416 314 6790 Email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Yurek,

On July 16th, you and Minister Hardeman announced that Bill 197 would allow local municipalities and our community to stop Walker's planned dump. Their plan to bring 17.4 million tonnes of trash into Oxford County is something I reject.

Walker hosted a long series of Community Liaison Committee meetings where, Walker asserts, community members had "time to learn about complex provincial and scientific processes". The community was already aware of the Environmental Assessment Act and of five scientific reports which showed that this dump project is unfeasible.

Geordie Walker, CEO of his family's holding company, in a letter dated Oct. 7th, offered "to make a donation [...] to a charity or charities of your choice" for the members of the CLC. That offer, to implicate members of the CLC and to implicate local charities in Walker's attempts to bring trash to Oxford was explicitly rejected by OPAL's president Bryan Smith, in both a reply to Geordie Walker and in the local media.

No charitable donation on the part of Walker Industries is acceptable all the while they plan to despoil our community with imported garbage. The Environmental Assessment Act allowed your predecessors to bring the "processes" to which Walker refers to a close. I ask you now to do so. Ask the three municipalities of Zorra, South-West Oxford and Ingersoll to pass a resolution rejecting Walker's dump plan which will allow you to refuse any more attempts by Walker to haul trash into Oxford County.

Sincerely,

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

Recently, Toronto councilor James Pasternak, has joined Walker Industries in an effort to paint a picture contrary to reality. As Toronto's lead on Environment and Infrastructure, Councillor Pasternak argues, falsely, that landfills are the only solution to waste. Then he says that the requirement in Bill 197 for consent by any municipality with residences within 3.5 of the dump will prevent all future dumps. This is an unfounded allegation. I am sure that he has not consulted every municipality in Ontario.

Further, even if it were the case that every municipality in Ontario refused to accept garbage exported from Toronto, Councillor Pasternak would find that by measuring 3.5 kilometres inward from the boundaries of his city, he would discover there is sufficient space for one or more dumps. If dumps are a good idea, as he thinks (again falsely), he could designate Toronto lands for a dump.

Dumps, of course are not a good idea; they leak. Dumping trash on your neighbours is not a good idea; they object. Trucking garbage along provincial highways is not cheap; the damage to infrastructure paid by the province is significant.

It would seem that Councillor Pasternak and perhaps his colleagues on Toronto City Council need a reminder from you that your Make-in-Ontario Environmental Plan supports the idea of a Waste-Free Ontario and rejects litter and trash all over the countryside.

The countryside rejects Mr. Pasternak's assertions, rejects Walker's dump plan, and rejects the regressive thinking they are based on. I invite you, Mr. Yurek, to join me in staying "No" to Walker's dump plan, any and all of its proponents.

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

What is the price of clean water?

What is the price of certainty?

What is the price that a community must pay when it is targeted for a dump by a large company?

The price is high.

Walker Industries plans a mega-dump in Oxford County. They plan to earn millions over the 'life' of that dump, then to close it and eventually abandon it.

You know, from the Waste Management dump leaking at Richmond near Napanee that the only certainty is that all dump liners leak, and that as a result, priceless water becomes tainted with ever-expanding plumes of pollution.

You also likely know that for the past 8 ½ years, people in Oxford County have spent time, energy, and money to prevent Walker's defective plan. Your ministry has invested the same in reviewing Walker's Terms of Reference and meeting materials over and over again.

It is time to bring the costs to a stop. Please end Walker's attempt to foist trash onto Oxford County.

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

Giving to charity is generally considered a good thing. Generosity of spirit is something many people have remarked is consistent with the ethos of Oxford as a community.

Walker Industries also wants to be known as a charitable donor. It is hard though to accept this as generosity when the donations are to be paralleled with the dumping of trash on Oxford County.

We should reject donations which come at a high price like this. As Minister of the Environment, you could suggest Walker Industries make donations to environmentally sound projects. Among them, might even be research into more appropriate ways to prevent waste, divert recycles and recover resources. Then their division that hauls garbage could seek out better solutions for trash than trucking and dumping on unwilling communities.

For Walker, trash generates cash; for Oxford, Walker's "cash ain't nothing but trash" (to cite The Clovers or Steve Miller).

Mr. Yurek we are counting on more than generosity from you; we are counting on you joining our community to say "No" to Walker's dump.

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Dear Mr. Yurek,

As Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, you are keenly aware of the necessity of a healthy environment to human health, need for the conservation of fragile wetlands and headwater to help downstream habitats and humans, and of the benefits of parks to people's enjoyment and sustenance.

Parks are sometimes original spaces helping to conserve our natural heritage. Sometimes they are reclaimed like famed quarry in Elora or the Brickworks in Toronto. Oxford County has another candidate for rehabilitation suitable for recreational use, and it has someone obligated to provide that final rehabilitation. Carmeuse's quarry near Beachville in Zorra could be a recreational asset.

Instead, Walker wants to turn Carmeuse's interim use of lands into a permanent threat to land, air and water. They want to put a dump into the headwaters of the Thames. They think that 17.4 million tonnes of trash should be the inheritance of downriver communities.

I think not. You should think not too. Please prevent Walker from realizing any part of its planned dump in Oxford County. Human and environmental health depend on your decision.

Sincerely,

Name:

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