



OSHAWA
ONTARIO, CANADA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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MAYOR JOHN HENRY

July 28, 2011

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Mr. Prime Minister, as you may be aware, both the City of Oshawa and Region of Durham Councils, supported by the residents of Oshawa, are adamantly opposed to the development of an ethanol refinery at the Oshawa Harbour. Attached are the unanimous resolutions from the Region of Durham Council and Oshawa City Council. Also, Dr. Colin Carrie, MP Oshawa, supports the City and Regional opposition to the development of the proposed ethanol refinery at the Oshawa Harbour near the Second Marsh, the largest remaining wetland in the Greater Toronto Area.

Notwithstanding, an environmental assessment is underway for a proposed ethanol refinery at the Oshawa Harbour to be located on a 30.4-acre site directly abutting the historic Gifford Hill. This would be the only ethanol refinery located along the Canadian shoreline of Lake Ontario. In addition, it would be:

- situated in proximity to the 46-acre Lakeview Park that includes a sandy beach, boardwalk, playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and scenic trails;
- situated near the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives, which is comprised of three provincially designated historic buildings;
- adjacent to the Second Marsh, a provincially Significant Wetland and Area of Natural and Scientific Interest that is home to a rich diversity of wildlife species, including 361 vascular plants, 305 bird species (several are listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), 57 fish species, 32 mammal species and the Blanding's Turtle (SARA status – Threatened). Second Marsh is also listed under the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest;
- situated in proximity to the Montgomery Creek, a provincially Significant Wetland; and

- adjacent to the heavily used Oshawa portion of the Waterfront Trail, which stretches through 41 communities, including Oshawa, from Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Quebec border, along the shores of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Furthermore, the Second Marsh, Montgomery Creek, the Waterfront Trail and Lakeview Park are deemed sensitive outdoor recreational land uses, pursuant to provincial guidelines.

Our understanding is that the proposed ethanol refinery would be capable of producing 210 million litres of ethanol annually, which would require processing 525,000,000 kilograms of corn each year and would result in approximately 168,000,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) emitted annually as a byproduct of the fermentation process.

In addition, the shipment of raw materials and end product into and out of the refinery would generate an estimated 200 daily truck trips which would create significant pressure on the city and regional road systems and the provincial Harmony Road Highway 401 interchange with respect to traffic capacity, safety and functional operations.

The proposed ethanol refinery is a major development which would have significant effects, and there is uncertainty of the impact of these effects. In this regard, on July 15, 2011, the City formally requested an extension to the comment period for the Environmental Assessment Screening Report (EA) from July 28 to September 28, 2011 to enable a comprehensive submission. This request was denied by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada by letter dated July 18, 2011. Since then, we were pleased to be informed that an extension has been approved to August 12, 2011; however, the original request of the September 28th, 2011 date would better allow the City of Oshawa to prepare a comprehensive submission. We respectfully request that the date of September 28th, 2011 be reconsidered and approved as the deadline for the comment period for the Environmental Assessment Screening Report (EA).

On behalf of the residents of the City of Oshawa, I urge and appeal the Federal Government to:

- extend the comment period for the EA from the revised date of August 12 to September 28, 2011;
- withdraw any consent previously given by the Oshawa Harbour Commission for an ethanol refinery to be established on Crown land or land to become Crown land at the Oshawa Harbour;
- withdraw any consent previously given by the Oshawa Harbour Commission for an ethanol refinery proponent to apply to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for any federal funding for an ethanol refinery to be established on Crown land or land to become Crown land at the Oshawa Harbour; and

- deny any and all requests for financial contributions or support for an ethanol refinery at the Oshawa Harbour including the current request by FarmTech.

In 2005, the residents of Oshawa identified "Realizing the Waterfront's Potential" as a key objective in the Community Strategic Plan. It is critical that the Oshawa Harbour Commission withhold the introduction of any further major new land uses at the Oshawa Harbour since the Canadian Port Authority has not been formed and the Land Use Plan required by the Canada Marine Act has not been prepared and approved by the Canadian Port Authority, including the required public participation.

The City supports the Federal Government's initiatives regarding alternative fuels, energy and EcoABC; however, the placement of an ethanol refinery at the Oshawa Harbour is not acceptable. As an alternative, the Federal Government may wish to consider the Township of Brock as per the attached correspondence dated July 21, 2011 from Mayor W. Terry Clayton which states the Township is a willing host as it is a predominantly agricultural community and the proposed ethanol refinery would be a complimentary agriculturally related use within its boundaries.

The Region of Durham and Oshawa City Councils and the residents of Oshawa, look forward to your positive response and action.

Yours truly,



John Henry
Mayor

- cc. The Honourable Jim Flaherty, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
The Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities
The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment
Dr. Colin Carrie, MP Oshawa
Jerry Ouellette, MPP Oshawa
Christine Elliott, MPP Whitby-Oshawa
John Knubley, Deputy Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Oshawa City Council

Attachment(s) 3