

May 2, 2025

Hon. Todd J. McCarthy
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Via email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

Dear Minister McCarthy:

Re: Defend Dresden; Strong Community Opposition to Landfill, Recycling and Waste Facility Proposals; 29831 Irish School Road, Chatham-Kent

I am writing to you on behalf of Chatham-Kent Municipal Council and our citizens, regarding a matter that would be destructive to our community and a major environmental impact.

As part of your government's proposed Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, a property at 29831 Irish School Road, Chatham-Kent is being considered for a landfilling, recycling, and waste management facility. We implore your government not to follow through with this proposal. Chatham-Kent has been very supportive in addressing Provincial priorities, such as significantly exceeding our assigned housing targets in 2023 and 2024; working collaboratively with Hydro One to facilitate the development of the various Priority Transmission Projects in Southwestern Ontario, the majority of which run through Chatham-Kent; supporting energy generation projects; and hosting an existing large landfill, known as the Ridge Landfill. However, we need you to ensure that the communities of our Province are protected when Provincial priorities are advanced.

The owners of these properties are trying to establish new waste, recycling and landfill uses under historic Ministry approvals. Those historic approvals were for very narrow uses, that had limited impacts on surrounding properties and our community. Our experts indicate that the types of environmental reviews that would be typical for a landfill, recycling, and waste facility of this size would not have been performed when very limited waste uses were established in the 1960s. This proposal, if approved, would have a devastating impact on the Town of Dresden and surrounding communities. Those who would be impacted include families, children, homes, farms, schools, businesses and importantly, our neighbouring Indigenous communities of Walpole Island First Nation and Delaware Nation at Moraviantown.

Your government showed great leadership in defending Dresden when, only a little more than a year ago, you passed Ontario Regulation 284/24 that required a full Environmental Assessment for this property. Only through a full Environmental Assessment process will the impacts of this proposal be fully understood, and we are confident that such a process

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would show that a landfill, recycling, and waste facility cannot be located this close to a vibrant and historic town. This property is just over 800 metres from the town of Dresden; imagine what it would be like to have such a facility 800 metres from your home. There is no feasible haul route for the hundreds of trucks that would go to and from the facility, meaning trucks would be driving through our towns and neighbouring communities, causing safety risks. This property is in a sensitive environmental area, which is particularly concerning when we see the limited environmental analysis that has ever been done to consider a landfill in this location. The property is not appropriately zoned and considering sensitive uses in close proximity, such as schools, it is hard to see how zoning changes to allow this use could be approved.

Municipal Council has now heard from our community, and there is resounding opposition to these proposals. Council has passed unanimous motions opposing this proposal and calling on your Ministry to reject the proposal.

We implore you, please do not include the repeal of Ontario Regulation 284/24 within Bill 5; please continue to require a full Environmental Assessment for any use of this property as a landfill, recycling facility and/or waste facility. Protect Ontario by protecting all parts of Ontario.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

C: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
MPP Steve Pinsonneault, Lambton—Kent—Middlesex
Chief Leela Thomas, Walpole Island First Nation
Chief Justin Logan, Delaware Nation
Mayor Jeff Agar, St. Clair Township
Mayor Alan Broad, Dawn-Euphemia
Warden Kevin Marriott, Lambton County