



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF HAMILTON

May 24, 2018

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Mr. Doug Ford  
Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario  
Room 381, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A8

Ms. Andrea Horwath  
Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario  
Room 115, Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A5

Dear Premier Wynne, Provincial Party Leaders Ford and Horwath:

On May 23, 2018, Hamilton City Council approved Item 4 of Planning Committee Report 18-008 which reads as follow:

**4. Municipalities call on the Province for the "Right to Approve" Landfill Developments (Item 6.1)**

WHEREAS municipal governments in Ontario do not have the right to approve landfill projects in their communities, but have authority for making decisions on all other types of development;

WHEREAS, this out-dated policy allows private landfill operators to consult with local residents and municipal Councils, but essentially ignore them;

WHEREAS, proposed Ontario legislation (Bill 139) will grant municipalities additional authority and autonomy to make decisions for their communities;

WHEREAS, municipalities already have exclusive rights for approving casinos and nuclear waste facilities within their communities, and the Province has recognized the value of municipal approval for the siting of power generation facilities;

WHEREAS, the recent report from Ontario’s Environmental Commissioner has found that Ontario has a garbage problem, particularly from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste generated within the City of Toronto, where diversion rates are as low as 15% and, unless significant efforts are made to increase recycling and diversion rates, a new home for this Toronto garbage will need to be found, as landfill space is filling up quickly;

WHEREAS, municipalities across Ontario are quietly being identified and targeted as potential landfill sites for future Toronto garbage by private landfill operators;

WHEREAS, other communities should not be forced to take Toronto waste, as landfills can contaminate local watersheds, air quality, dramatically increase heavy truck traffic on community roads, and reduce the quality of life for local residents;

WHEREAS, municipalities should be considered experts in waste management, as they are responsible for this within their own communities, and often have decades’ worth of in-house expertise in managing waste, recycling, and diversion programs; and

WHEREAS, municipalities should have the exclusive right to approve or reject these projects, and assess whether the potential economic benefits are of sufficient value to offset any negative impacts and environmental concerns;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton calls upon the Government of Ontario, and all political parties, to formally grant municipalities the authority to approve landfill projects in, or adjacent to their communities, prior to June 2018;
- (b) That in the case of a two-tier municipality, the approval be required at both the upper-tier and affected lower-tier municipalities;
- (c) That the City of Hamilton encourages all other municipalities in Ontario to consider this motion calling for immediate Provincial action;
- (d) That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Good Roads Association and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).

We respectfully request your timely response to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred Eisenberger", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Fred Eisenberger  
Mayor

Copies to:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Good Roads Association  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)  
Municipalities of Ontario

