Midhurst Ratepayers' Association Inc.

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Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

April 24, 2012

Dear Mr. McGuinty

RE: Appeal to OMB of Midhurst Secondary Plan

This covering letter provides some background information on the above case and is intended to be used in conjunction with the enclosed documentation, which was sent by email on the above date.

Midhurst is a particularly picturesque village located in the Township of Springwater, Ontario, just north of Barrie. The village has a long history of grist mills and even of an early hydro-electric plant which supplied the first hydro to Barrie. More recently residents have become worried and concerned about proposed developments for their village.

The Midhurst Secondary Plan is a scheme to add 30,000 people, in 10,000 dwellings on prime agricultural land, to a village of some 4,000 people - and in an area of high unemployment. Besides the economic consequences, the community will be ruined.

Ontario's excellent *Places to Grow* legislation of 2006 was penned specifically to curb urban sprawl, loss of farmland and reliance on the automobile. For these reasons, and because the scheme surpasses Ontario's growth numbers by a wide margin, the Ministry of the Attorney General appealed the Simcoe County decision to the OMB.

We are currently concerned that the January 19, 2012 amendment to the *Places to Grow* act, might be interpreted as offering enough concessions to Simcoe County for the Midhurst Secondary plan to proceed, albeit on a smaller scale.

As Ontario Ministers have advised us that they cannot comment while the case is "before the OMB", your intervention is respectfully requested to ensure that the appeal to the OMB remains in place, thus affording us an opportunity to address the stated irregularities.

Thanking you for your consideration,

Yours faithfully

David Strachan
Secretary, Midhurst Ratepayers Association Inc.
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