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Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>
Cc: Gary Christie
Subject: Response to Member Motion Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-Law

Regarding Mr. Muench Proposed Motion to Review Farming and Agriculture in Richmond Hill

Member Motion: Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

I am very disappointed and angered about the deceptive nature of councillor Muench's motion to seek support for a request to "protect" and expand the Greenbelt with his request for the above stated review. There are no specifics in his letter to his constituents about his actual motion addressed to Richmond Hill council. In fact his letter paints a false picture of his intentions that hide a very serious and potentially deleterious action. The actual motion to change the lands from "countryside" designation to a "settlement" designation in fact opens and puts into risk the long fought preservation of the Oak Ridges Moraine as a key geomorphological component of the Greenbelt. Why doesn't he state the actual motion in his letter?

<https://pub-richmondhill.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=39804>

Whitchurch/Stouffville and surrounding lands are a critical part of the Oak Ridges Moraine. The health and maintenance of these areas are important in providing essential recharge of aquifers that feed numerous watersheds and support numerous species of flora and fauna, some of which are at risk. In addition these aquifers provide essential water to communities and agriculture.

It is vital that we keep the dynamics of this precarious ecosystem, that is on the verge of collapse, as minimally impacted by development as possible. To say, as Mr. Muench puts it, that the lands are "agriculturally poor" and already in decline is extremely irresponsible and sets a precedent of erosion of the already injured Greenbelt or to put it simply contributes to "death by a thousand cuts".

<https://www.oakridgestrail.org/moraine/>

The Toronto Region Conservation Authority has already provided insight into the decline of a key watersheds that find their source in the Whitchurch/Stouffville area of the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine. The 2013 and 2018 Rouge River report cards point to an alarming trend of declining health especially in surface water where indicators such as benthic (aquatic bugs) are trending downward since 2001. In addition riparian forest cover, critical to stream health is poor and declining. Key reasons point to development and land use change.

https://reportcard.trca.ca/app/uploads/2018/03/Rouge_River_Watershed_Report_Card_2013.pdf

<https://reportcard.trca.ca/watershed-report-cards/rouge-river/>

Brook trout are key indicator of watershed health, serving as a "canary in the coal mine". Brook trout are a native species that depend on cool fresh water for survival. An in-depth study by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority has shown a sharp decline and even extirpated to the point of extinction of this species due to development and land use change. Well within the next few decades they will have disappeared forever.

<https://trca.ca/news/brook-trout-decline/>

<https://trcaca.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/app/uploads/2017/12/17170258/What-Legislation-Policies-and-Guidelines-Do-Conservation-Authorities-Have-at-Their-Disposal-to-Protect-BT-Habitat.pdf>

I strongly urge Mr. Muench to be transparent with his intentions. If his intentions are to make a motion to change in the designation of these lands from "countryside" to "settlement", I strongly object and urge council to object as well for our longterm benefit now and for generations to come.

"We did not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children"

Yours truly,

Gary J Christie