

**LOUIE SARTOR AND DANIELA KOTACK  
11839 LESLIE STREET,  
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO L4E 3R8**

April 6, 2021

Richmond Hill Council

Dear Members of Council:

**Re: Member Motion for Meeting of April 14, 2021 submitted by Councillor Tom Muench – Review of farming and Agriculture in Richmond Hill**

We are writing to you to confirm our support for the Motion being proposed by Councillor Tom Muench to review farming and agriculture in Richmond Hill, specifically addressing the significant challenges to continuing our agricultural businesses in Richmond Hill's northeast sector (north Leslie area).

**We have been landowners and stakeholders in this area since 1974.** This area has changed considerably since that time and we believe that the COUNTRYSIDE land use designation is no longer appropriate for this area. As long time community members, we can no longer visualize our small area of being any value as a farm or rural area. The ability to farm on these lands is becoming more and more difficult and we have noticed over the past several years a decrease in the farmed lands around us.

The area has changed considerably because of urban development surrounding this area and the increase in traffic along Leslie Street. Leslie has gone from a beat up narrow lane road with tractors and pull-buggies to a new widened highway grade paved road with mostly high speed modern vehicles such as cars and trucks and trailers zooming by. A recent massive GO train station built just to the north of our community with parking for 850 cars and room for more as required, along with increased bus traffic, a plaza of big box stores to the south of us, Highway 404 to the east of us and a newly paved Leslie Street has already increased the amount of traffic and congestion in this area. There are also numerous large subdivisions being currently built all around us.

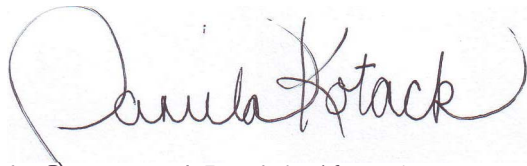
The nearest intersection to us, within eyesight of our driveway, up until recently has been a single lane road with a stop sign. This fall, work was completed to install traffic lights and the roads have been widened to 4 lanes. York Region has already proposed

straightening and widening Leslie Street to 5 lanes, cutting through the majority of our properties, Project #99804.

Times have changed and so has this area. Continuation of the existing rural policies for these lands is no longer appropriate for an area that has been so highly impacted by urbanization and is becoming surrounded by urban development.

Now is the time to study these issues and reassess the area. We are requesting that Richmond Hill Council approve this Motion.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Daniela Kotack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Louie Sutor and Daniela Kotack  
11839 Leslie Street,  
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4E 3R8