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ORANGEVILLE

May 20, 2011

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Dear Minister,

I am writing to share the deep concern being expressed to me by residents of Dufferin-Caledon regarding the Highland Companies' proposal for an aggregate mega-quarry in Melancthon Township.

The proposal by the Highland Companies seeks to develop the largest mega-quarry in Canada. It will disrupt an area of over 900 hectares of prime farm land and delve over 60 metres below the existing water table. This open pit mega-quarry will affect a tributary of the Pine River, potentially affecting fish habitat. The potential disruption for residents of Dufferin-Caledon by the operations of this development as well as damage to our environment are of serious concern.

I ask that you direct the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to conduct an environmental assessment of this project. I believe that at the least the Law List trigger contained in Section 5 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* applies in this case with respect to Section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*. According to an analysis by the David Suzuki Foundation of the technical environmental report (the Stantec Report) prepared by Highland in accordance with the Province of Ontario's *Aggregate Resources Act*, the potential exists for harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat in the tributary of the Pine River that flows through the site.

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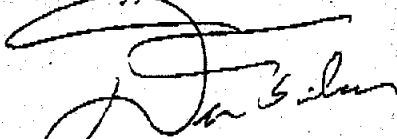
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The Highland Companies are currently in negotiations to purchase the abandoned railway right of way north of Orangeville in order to transport the aggregate by rail. This presents another potential Law List trigger with respect to the *Railway Safety Act*, the *Railway Relocation and Crossing Act*, the *Canada Transportation Act*, the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.

Given the sheer size and scope of this proposal and the level of serious concern expressed to me by residents of Dufferin-Caledon, I request that you bring to bear the tools at your disposal to ensure that this project gets a thorough and comprehensive review. I have enclosed supporting documentation from residents of Dufferin-Caledon to assist you in this regard.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity on this important matter.

Sincerely,



David Tilson, O.C., M.P.
Dufferin-Caledon

Encl.