

## Ottawa

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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

## David Tilson

Member of Parliament for Dufferin—Caledon  
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ORANGEVILLE  
September 6, 2011

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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 with regard to the decision by Ontario Environment Minister John Wilkinson to undertake an environmental assessment of the Highland Companies' Melancthon Quarry proposal.

In the statement announcing his decision, Minister Wilkinson said "Ministry of the Environment officials have thoroughly examined the technical reports which were submitted by the quarry proponents. Based on a review of those reports, and because of the unique nature of the Melancthon quarry proposal, I believe a full Environmental Assessment is necessary." I fully agree with him.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) has published an Operational Policy Statement entitled "Use of Federal-Provincial Cooperation Mechanisms in Environmental Assessments pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*". In it, the CEAA states "To take maximum advantage of the opportunities provided in the legislation for inter-jurisdictional cooperation, all federal authorities with a strong possibility of a trigger are expected to adopt an "automatically in" approach with respect to their environmental assessment obligations, rather than delaying engagement until they have certainty that an environmental assessment will be required. ["In until out" or "automatically in" approach]". I would argue that there is a strong possibility of a trigger in the case of the Melancthon quarry proposal, as I noted in my letters to you of May 20, 2011 and June 29, 2011.

.../2



The Operational Policy Statement goes on to state "the nature and magnitude of any anticipated public concerns (high levels of public concerns in a proposed project may increase expectations that both orders of government will play an active role)". I can think of few projects ever proposed in Dufferin County that have generated the level of public concern that now surrounds the quarry proposal. I have been contacted by Canadians from all over the country in addition to my own constituents on this matter. Without exception, they want to see the highest possible scrutiny of this proposal from all levels of government.

In summary, now that the Province of Ontario has gone to the length of ordering an environmental assessment where they were under no obligation to do so, and given the overwhelming level of public concern in Dufferin County and beyond, I reiterate my request that you direct the CEAA to conduct an environmental assessment of the Highland Companies' Melancthon quarry proposal. I would further suggest you direct the CEAA to proceed with an environmental assessment in conjunction with the Province of Ontario under the framework outlined in above-mentioned Operational Policy Statement regarding cooperative environmental assessments.

I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Tilson', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

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

cc. The Honourable Michael Chong, P.C., M.P.  
Sylvia Jones, M.P.P.