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Chair	✓
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Peel Living	

April 28, 2009

ETP - E3-1

Emil V. Kolb
 Regional Chair
 Region of Peel
 Executive Office
 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A
 5th Floor, Room 504
 Brampton, Ontario L6T 4B9

REFERRAL TO _____
 RECOMMENDED _____
 DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
 RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ✓ _____

Dear Chair Kolb:

Re: Metrolinx's Regional Expansion with the Georgetown Corridor

I am writing to you as a member of both the Weston Community Coalition and the newly formed Clean Train Coalition with regards to the above referenced project. We are inviting the Region of Peel to join with us in demanding from the Province and Metrolinx that the infrastructure being built for both the new link to Pearson and the GO expansion be electrified from the beginning. We believe in building it once and building it right the first time!

On April 2, 2009, Mike Sullivan, Chair of the Weston Community Coalition, presented to your Council what our ongoing concerns are with respect to the electrification of the rail lines within the Georgetown Corridor and that the Air Rail Link service the people west of Pearson with a direct link. At the same time, residents all along the Corridor started realizing what was going to happen to their neighbourhoods with the current plans for expansion. We anticipate upwards of 350 diesel trains per day which is a 7-fold increase over what we currently have. That said, we are not opposed to more trains as long as they electric and they serve the residents whose neighbourhoods they run through. We believe that any new infrastructure should be built with the best interests of all residents along the corridor whether they live in Toronto or in Peel. Currently, Metrolinx's plans are to build and upgrade using antiquated diesel technology potentially causing more pollution than that of which comes off the road. Why diesel? Because it is cheaper and faster to build. To us, this is not acceptable. We hope that you and your Council will agree and add your voice to ours.

As an active fundraiser for a variety of Peel children's charities including Peel Children's Centre, Peel Children's Aid, the United Way and the Children's Safety Village, I am sure that you are greatly concerned with the health and welfare of the children in your neighbourhoods. Within a part of the catchment area of the Georgetown Corridor just in the Toronto area, we have counted upwards of 74 schools that would be affected by the increased diesel fumes dispersed into the air and thus potentially causing increased asthma rates and other related illnesses. This is just in a 300 metre wide area on both sides of the tracks. In real terms, this is thousands of young children who will, through no fault of their own, be breathing toxic fumes on a daily basis just by going to school. To us, it is unimaginable that our own governments would be party to building infrastructure that will cause damage to young lungs. We ask how much is a child's life worth that electrification is too expensive? To us, the answer is clear – diesel is not an option for the 21st Century and should not be utilized to build new infrastructure within a densely populated corridor.

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Chair Kolb – Georgetown Corridor Expansion

To that end, our message is clear: our cities and the good citizens of the GTA deserve a clean, effective and modern transportation system. Now is the time to build a transit solution that will benefit all of us and serve our region for decades to come. We urge all communities and our municipal leaders to join with the Clean Train Coalition. We believe in CLEAN - A Corridor that's Livable, Electrified, and Accessible for all Neighbourhoods.

For more information, our website can be viewed at www.cleantrain.ca. We look forward to having the Region of Peel join with us in affecting change and demanding better from our Government of Ontario.

Respectfully,

Suri Weinberg-Linsky
Outreach Committee
Clean Train Coalition
Weston Community Coalition

cc: Eli Malinsky – Chair, CTC
Mike Sullivan – Chair, WCC