

MA-DI-1

Office of the Prime Minister

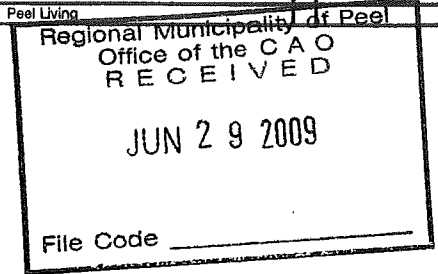


Cabinet du Premier ministre

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A2

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES	
COPY TO:	FOR:
Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee
CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council
Environment, Transportation and Planning Services	Sept 10 th
Employee and Business Services	
Finance	
Health Services	File
Human Services	
Peel Living	

June 24, 2009



Mr. Emil V. Kolb
 Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer
 The Regional Municipality of Peel
 10 Peel Centre Drive
 Brampton, Ontario
 L6T 4B9

Dear Mr. Kolb:

On behalf of the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of June 15, with which you enclosed a resolution of the Regional Municipality of Peel regarding the "Buy American" provision of the U.S. economic stimulus program.

You may be assured that the views expressed in the resolution have been carefully reviewed. As a copy of your correspondence has already been sent to the Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of International Trade, I am certain that he also will have appreciated receiving this information.

Thank you for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

M. Bredeson

M. Bredeson
 Executive Correspondence Officer

REFERRAL TO _____
 RECOMMENDED _____
 DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
 RECEIPT RECOMMENDED _____

Canada



Office of the Chair

June 15, 2009

Resolution Number. 2009-673

Stephen Harper
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Right Honourable Harper:

Subject: Fair Trade and Equal Access with the United States

I am writing to advise that Regional Council approved the following resolution at its meeting held on Thursday, June 4, 2009:

Resolution 2009-673:

Whereas, the world's economy has entered into a period of slow economic growth;

And whereas, Governments throughout the world have introduced various stimulus packages to encourage economic growth;

And whereas, the United States of America is Canada's largest trading partner and a signatory of the North American Free Trade Agreement;

And whereas, the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayor's Alliance is supportive of Free Trade between Canada and the United States which has existed for many years;

And whereas, the Government of the United States of America has introduced infrastructure stimulus packages including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which includes "Buy American" provisions for steel and other manufactured products;

And whereas, these restrictive provisions which are contrary to the spirit of free trade will prevent Canadian companies from bidding contracts which contain the "Buy American" provisions at the municipal and state levels in the United States since NAFTA and The General Procurement Agreement of the World Trade Organization do not nullify such provisions at those levels;

And whereas, Canadian stimulus infrastructure programs do not contain any restrictions on manufacturers from other countries including the United States bidding on such contracts in Canada;



Office of the Chair

- 2 -

Resolution Number 2009-673

And whereas, Canadian companies may be adversely affected by these restrictions possibly leading to lay-offs and financial losses and further could lead to the erosion of their overall ongoing viability;

And whereas, the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayor's Alliance is supportive of Free Trade between the United States and Canada and that the restrictive "Buy American" provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are contrary to the spirit of free trade;

And whereas, the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayor's Alliance supports the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters in its quest to have the United States Congress reconsider and repeal their current "Buy American" requirements for the United States stimulus packages;

And whereas, the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayor's Alliance supports the position that Canadian municipalities consider the feasibility of a procurement policy that future Canadian Infrastructure projects at the municipal level, including environmental projects such as water and wastewater treatment projects, require that any goods and materials required for the projects be bought only from companies whose countries of origin do not impose local trade restrictions against goods and materials manufactured in Canada to better ensure open, fair and competitive practices across the globe;

Therefore be it resolved, that The Regional Municipality of Peel supports the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayor's Alliance resolution and the presentation of this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for their consideration of endorsement, with a request that it be presented at its annual convention, June 5-8, 2009;

And further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Trade and Industry, AMO, CME, Region of Durham, Region of York, and Region of Halton.

The above resolution is provided for your information.

Sincerely,

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

EK:sa

c: David Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer
Jeff Payne, Deputy Clerk and Acting Director of Clerk's
Norma Trim, Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Corporate Services