

March 8, 2021

REGION OF PEEL  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

**Subject:** FW: IMPORTANT - Protecting Caledon's environment for future generations to come: a cry from (y)our youth

**From:** Caitlin Ciampaglia [REDACTED]

**Sent:** March 8, 2021 4:08 PM

**To:** ZZG-COUNCIL <[zzg-council@peelregion.ca](mailto:zzg-council@peelregion.ca)>; Iannicca, Nando <[nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca](mailto:nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca)>

**Cc:** Iannicca, Nando <[nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca](mailto:nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca)>; Downey, Johanna <[johanna.downey@caledon.ca](mailto:johanna.downey@caledon.ca)>

**Subject:** IMPORTANT - Protecting Caledon's environment for future generations to come: a cry from (y)our youth

**CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.**

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Hello there,

My name is Caitie Ciampaglia and I am an extremely concerned 20 year old citizen living in Caledon, Ontario. I am currently attending the [REDACTED] studying Environmental Science, Forest Conservation Science and Environmental Studies - needless to say, my passion is the environment.

I was fortunate enough to grow up on a small horse farm in Terra Cotta, Caledon, with woods, rivers and meadows galore at my fingertips. My family and I have a lovely property with a 20 acre managed forest plan which I am very grateful for thanks to our wonderful local conservation authority, Credit Valley Conservation. We consider ourselves stewards of our land.

Over the past 5 years or so, I cannot help but notice the sudden change in Caledon - more local habitat is being paved over for development, wetlands are being destroyed, we have a fairly severe litter problem, and we completely lack a strong sustainability plan to follow, especially with the added pressures of population growth. We also lack a strong figure to assume a sustainable leadership position to help guide this region of Ontario.

The proposed highway 413, is a perfect example to portray the shift in priorities of Caledon in the past several years. Caledon was once called 'the Greenest Town in Ontario' - the sign at the end of my quiet dirt road told me so, but that sign has now been removed rather symbolically. What is more, I see no effort to regain that very significant and impressive title that should be at the forefront of a town like Caledon's agenda - a town with a significant amount of nature and wildlife, a town home to a large portion of the protected Niagara Escarpment. A highway that will directly cut across Ontario's extremely arable and valuable farmland, will eliminate homes, livelihoods and the natural landscape. I urge you to remember that once a change like this is made, it is essentially irreversible, at least on a realistic timescale. What we need is a healthy, non-fragmented environment, not another highway. I urge you to improve the quality of our existing habitats and green spaces before destroying others.

Personally, I do not believe local voices are heard. There are many cries for environmental protection from the local people living here - you can see that by driving through the once quiet Belfountain, home to a conservation area that is now covered in litter, like the rest of the town, from an excess amount of traffic and visitors - another city planning issue in need of government help. The residents in Belfountain always have signs on their lawn demanding justice for one environmental issue or another affecting their local community - protecting rivers from pollution and the wildlife that live there, protesting destructive gravel pits nearby, demanding the stop of sprawl and new development being some examples.

I am extremely busy at this time of year with my studies, midterms are coming to a close and final exams are just around

the corner. Nevertheless, I have taken the time to write this email in hopes that it makes some sort of difference. I have taken the time owing to the sheer amount of concern I have for the environment of my beloved hometown. As someone who is preparing to devote my entire career and life to the environment, I hope you can empathize with where my frustration comes from.

This is a request that you seriously consider what is at stake owing to the proposed highway plan - the environment. Unfortunately, it seems to me that it is the environment that is too often what is at stake in many situations globally. This is an opportunity for the Town of Caledon to put the environment, as well as its local people's best interest at the top of the priority list - where they should be. I hope the clatter of local voices against this project is enough of a sign to cause change.

Please have the forethought to consider future generations and their right to a healthy, protected environment.

Sincerely,

Caitie Ciampaglia

Environmentally concerned undergraduate student from the [REDACTED]

School of the Environment  
[REDACTED]