

August 21, 2020

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3
Email: iaac.conditions.aeic@canada.ca

Re: Reference Number 80100 – CN Milton Logistics Hub

Dear Minister Wilkinson and IAAC,

On behalf of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, representing Canada's 90,000 manufacturers and exporters and our association's 2,500 direct members, I am writing to offer our continued support of the CN Milton Logistics Hub and would like to comment on the conditions for the project's approval.

Manufacturing drives economic growth and our collective prosperity. Moreover, manufacturing is responsible directly and indirectly through its deep regional supply chains for more than 30 per cent of all economic activity in Ontario. Our members have made clear that for local manufacturers to compete within North America and around the world, for them to invest and grow, for them to employ millions of Ontarians, they need efficient and effective transportation corridors. Building trade infrastructure increases business productivity and competitiveness by reducing the time and cost of transporting goods to markets. It allows products to move efficiently throughout the supply chain and to end-use customers around the world.

As Canada turns to building a more resilient economy in the face of increasingly challenging times, it is vital projects like the Milton Logistics Hub proceed. Our view is that this project has much to offer: it builds critical transportation infrastructure to move goods in and out of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and Canada; it will help local businesses grow; it will alleviate congestion on an overburdened local transportation system; and it will link Canada's manufacturers to domestic and international supply chains and help Canada achieve our trade diversification goals.

This is a privately-funded, shovel-ready project that we should not turn away, especially when the conditions can assure the public that this facility meets or exceeds environmental standards. We know that CN has gone to great lengths to plan this project appropriately, with extensive consultation over a five-year process with stakeholders and First Nations groups. The project complements Halton's existing and growing logistics and distribution centre and conditions should be drafted to allow construction to commence without undue delay as part of efforts to rebuild our economy when we need it most.

Canadian Manufacturers strongly support the Milton Logistics Hub and we urge the federal government to approve it with conditions that are practical, reasonable, and feasible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Milton Logistics Hub and conditions for its approval.

Sincerely,



Mathew Wilson
Senior Vice-President, Policy, Government Relations and Ontario