

The Honourable  
Catherine McKenna  
Minister of Infrastructure  
and Communities.

Ana I. Smialek  
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Dear Madame.

We are deeply concerned with Doug Ford's provincial government regarding the resurrection of the proposed 413 Highway in the G.T.A.

As reported in the Toronto Star on April 3, 2021 the Toronto Region Conservation Authority stated that the 413 Highway will raze 2000 acres of farmland, cut across waterways, and pave nearly 400 acres of protected Greenbelt land in Vaughan.

It will disrupt 220 wetlands and habitats of 10 species at risk.

Eight of Ontario's most powerful land owners own thousands of acres of prime real estate near the proposed route of the controversial Highway 413, a Torstar/National Observer investigation has found.

It goes on to say that four of the developers are connected to Doug Ford's Progressive Conservative government. They have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to his party and are lobbying for the damaging proposal.

The report also states that the Ford government has already taken steps to speed up the development along the route using Minister's Zoning Orders. Apparently they are unappealable. One issued in April 2002 approved the demolition of 3 protected areas of wetlands and replaced them with a massive Walmart distribution centre. The project began in August 2020. We encourage the federal

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government to step in and take over the environmental Assessment of the proposed Highway 413 and stop the destruction of protected wetlands where development is forbidden.

We cannot allow wealthy developers tied to the Progressive Conservative Party to influence crucial decisions concerning sensitive environmental issues that will affect all Canadians and future generations.

Sincerely,

A. Smialek