

Archived: April 20, 2021 4:24:57 PM

From: <Email address removed>

Sent: April 19, 2021 7:09:57 PM

To: [Ministre / Minister \(EC\)](#)

Cc: julie.dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca; MStiles-CO@ndp.on.ca

Subject: Federal environmental reviews of Highway 413 and Bradford Bypass

Sensitivity: Normal

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

My name is John Paul Kleiner and I reside in the Davenport riding of Toronto. I write you today to add my name to the list of those requesting that you use your powers as federal Environment Minister to order environmental reviews of both the GTA West Highway and Bradford Bypass projects currently being pursued by Ontario's provincial government.

My concerns about these projects are related to the immeasurable environmental damage they will cause to wildlife habitats, species at risk (including multiple ones on federal lists), wetlands, forests and ecosystems both within our province's Greenbelt and outside of it. It is patently clear that our provincial government is unwilling to fulfill its role as stewards of our natural world and so I am calling on you to use your powers to order environmental assessments that will clearly demonstrate all that would be lost were these ill-conceived projects allowed to proceed.

As you are likely aware, the environmental assessment processes being proposed for these projects by the Ontario government are not worthy of their name. These will permit a variety of deleterious construction to proceed on these projects (e.g. bridges over watercourses) before the entire assessment is complete. In the case of the Bradford Bypass, work is being permitted on the basis of an environmental assessment that is 23 years old, one that was issued on the understanding that a number of further studies would be done to support its finding. These additional studies were never done, thereby compromising the conclusions of the original EA.

There is considerable public opposition to both of these projects here in Ontario, indeed a number of the town, city and municipal councils (including Toronto, Mississauga and Vaughan) have voted to oppose the plans for Highway 413.

Your government is taking much needed steps towards putting Canada on a path towards a sustainable future, however, these efforts are being undermined here in Ontario in the most irresponsible way. These highways would also increase vehicle traffic at a time when the federal government has pledged to cut carbon emissions from transportation. The assessment processes currently proposed by the government of Ontario will not take into account the climate impacts which will arise from adding these roads to our provincial system.

Given the high levels of public concern, and the continued failure of the provincial government to honour its commitments to protect human and environmental health, we are calling on the federal government to designate these highway projects for a federal environmental assessment. If the Ontario government won't protect our environment, the federal government needs to step in now.

Thank you,
John Paul Kleiner

<Personal information removed>