Petition

**To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario**

Whereas, scientific studies published in peer-reviewed, international journals have shown that the quality of the spring waters emanating from the Simcoe Uplands today is on par with ancient Arctic ice\*, and

Whereas, the purity of these waters is the result of filtration taking place in local soils, and

Whereas, the extraction of aggregate removes the living soil layer which filters the water, and

Whereas, washing gravel has already contaminated nearby wells with silt, and

Whereas, disposal of asphalt (a mixture of bitumen and sand) in these quarries will introduce a suite of potentially toxic organic contaminants (such as PAHs) not naturally found in the Simcoe Uplands,

**We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:**

Urge the Ontario Ministries of the Environment and Climate Change and of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Premier of Ontario to protect this unique and precious water resource for future generations by halting the removal of aggregates from French's Hill in Concession 1 of Tiny Township, County of Simcoe, by forbidding the development & expansion of aggregate extraction and introduction of asphalt or any other waste product.

\*Shotyk, W., Krachler, M., Aeschbach-Hertig, W., Hillier, S. and Zheng, J. (2010) Trace elements in recent groundwater of an artesian flow system and comparison with snow: enrichments, depletions, and chemical evolution of the water. Journal of Environmental Monitoring 12:208-217.

Shotyk, W. and Krachler, M. (2009) Determination of trace element concentrations in natural freshwaters: how low is “low”, and how low do we have to go? Journal of Environmental Monitoring 11:1747 - 1753.

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| **Name(printed)** | **Address(printed)** | **Signature** |
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Petition Guidelines

A petition is a document that is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and signed by at least one person. It asks the Legislature to act on or change its position on an issue. A petition can be submitted by an individual or a group.

Preparing a petition

To be presented to the Legislative Assembly, a petition must meet the following rules:

It must ask for an action that is within the jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly.

It must use clear and respectful language.

The text of the petition must be at the top of every page of signatures.

All signatures must be original. They must be written directly on the petition.

Each petitioner must print his or her name and address and sign his or her name under the text of the petition.

Petitioners must be residents of Ontario.

The petition must be addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

The petition must be written, typewritten, or printed. Emailed, faxed, photocopied, or online petitions are not allowed.

Presenting a petition

MPPs present petitions to the Legislative Assembly. Petitioners must arrange for an MPP to present their petition.

Any MPP, except cabinet ministers and the Speaker of the House, can present a petition. The Chief Government Whip may present a petition on behalf of cabinet ministers.

Petitions can be presented to the House or tabled with the Clerk.

Presenting a petition to the House

MPPs can present a petition during regular meeting of the House. These presentations are recorded in Hansard and the official record of proceedings (Votes and Proceedings).

Tabling a petition with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

An MPP can file a petition with the Clerk at any time during a parliamentary session. These presentations are recorded only in the Votes and Proceedings.

The government's response to a petition

The government must file a response within 24 sitting days of the presentation of the petition. They give the response to the Clerk and the MPP who presented the petition.

The Clerk keeps an index of petitions that are presented during the parliamentary session. The index includes:

a short description of the subject of the petition

the date the petition was presented

the MPP who presented the petition

the date the Clerk received a response to the petition