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April 29, 2020

The Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Office of the Minister  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Clark,  
[steve.clark@pc.ola.org](mailto:steve.clark@pc.ola.org)

**RE: County of Simcoe's Request for Minister's Zoning Order**

AWARE Simcoe is a citizens' organization that advocates for protection of the environment, and to achieve healthy and sustainable communities. We monitor local governments for transparency and accountability.

We are writing to you to express our strong opposition to the County of Simcoe's request for a Minister's Zoning Order for the Environmental Resource Recovery Centre ("ERRC").

We are supporters of the Friends of Simcoe Forests Inc., ("FSF") a local non-profit organization that seeks to protect and conserve forests in Simcoe County. We are very concerned about the County's proposal to establish the ERRC, a large resource processing facility, in the Freele County Forest.

AWARE Simcoe advocated for a different site that was on the County's site selection short list, one that was more central (Highway 93 at Highway 400) and not forested.

The proposed ERRC was approved by the province through Official Plan Amendment 2 ("OPA2"), which FSF appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal ("LPAT"). FSF has expended significant time, resources, and money to prepare for the LPAT hearing. They retained experts in the field of ecology and planning who have prepared reports critiquing the inadequacy of the County's planning and technical studies. They have attended case management conferences before LPAT and have been very actively engaged throughout the planning process.

Under these circumstances it would be extremely unfair and unprincipled to terminate the LPAT process by issuing a Minister's Zoning Order. We are unaware of any instance where a Minister's Zoning Order has been issued while a matter was before the LPAT. The issuance of a Minister's Zoning Order would terminate the LPAT proceeding but would leave the legal,

planning, and technical issues with the ERRC unresolved. This would be an abuse of power and fundamentally undermine public confidence and trust in Ontario's planning regime.

Therefore, we urge you not to issue a Minister's Zoning Order to the ERRC.

Yours truly,

Sandy Agnew,  
Vice-chair, AWARE Simcoe

- c. Doug Downey, MPP Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte  
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