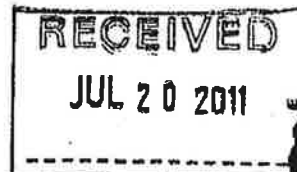


Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Rural Affairs

Ministère de l'Agriculture,
de l'Alimentation et
des Affaires rurales



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JUL 18 2011

His Worship Bill Hill
Mayor
Township of Melancthon
RR 6
Shelburne, Ontario
L0N 1S9

Dear Mayor Hill:

Thank you for following up on our meeting earlier this year at the 2011 Ontario Good Roads Association/Rural Ontario Municipal Association combined conference. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss your concerns in more detail.

I am aware that your township is grappling with some complex land use issues, including a proposed aggregate extraction proposal. I understand that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) provided your municipality with comments on March 1, 2011.

I understand your frustration that the province has not yet prepared evaluation procedures to designate speciality croplands as per Section 2.3.2 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). As you may be aware, the province is currently in the process of conducting a five-year review of the PPS. The PPS review will be considering all aspects of the policy statement including the specialty crop provisions; as such it would be imprudent of us to be producing evaluation criteria while the review is underway.

I acknowledge that this may be a concern. However, I also understand that MMAH's March 1, 2011 letter clearly indicated that the PPS does not preclude the township from moving forward with considering the designation of a specialty crop area. MMAH provided several recommendations to assist the township in assessing a specialty crop designation in the absence of provincial evaluation criteria, recognizing that this would be a local initiative. MMAH staff have also emphasized that a specialty crop designation does not necessarily preclude aggregate extraction.

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Mayor Hill
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I encourage you to continue working with MMAH through the One-Window Provincial Planning Review Service. The e-mail address for that service is onewindow@ontario.ca.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Van Bommel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Maria" being the most prominent.

Maria Van Bommel
Parliamentary Assistant

c: The Honourable Carol Mitchell
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The Honourable Rick Bartolucci
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing