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April 20th, 2011

(Via e-mail)

Attention: Christopher Gosselin,
Manager of Environmental Planning,
Planning, Housing, and Community Services Department, Regional Municipality of Waterloo,
150 Frederick Street,
Kitchener, Ontario,
N2G 4J3.

Re. South Kitchener Transportation Corridor, and
River Road Extension Class EA

Dear Mr. Gosselin:

I sent a serious letter to you dated March 29th, 2011. I was pleased to receive an immediate acknowledgement the following day promising that you, **“...will respond in a few days’ time as I am now trying to meet a report deadline.”** I fully expected that I would receive a response within a week, not 3 weeks. I don’t believe that I am being impatient.

Therefore I seek the same information that I outlined in the March 29th 2011 letter as follows:

“It has come to my attention that the Region intends to hold a Public Information Centre re. the River Road Extension EA Study for a fixed date in May.

Pursuant to a letter sent to me by you on May 11, 2007, I wish to know if the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC) has considered the following:

- **Results and conclusions made from project work completed since 2007,**
- **the reasons why the study has been inactive,**
- **Review of the selection of a preferred alternative planning solution to transportation needs in the South Kitchener transportation corridor, and**
- **The Project Team’s plan to seek approval from the Regional Council to reaffirm the approval of a new road from Bleams Road/Manitou Drive to River Road/King Street as the Preferred solution and to resume and complete the River Road Extension Class EA Study**

If it has been the subject of such consideration, could you be so kind as to copy the minutes of any EEAC meetings that pertain to this subject? If it has not been the subject of such consideration, could you please advise me the reason?”

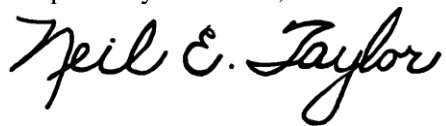
In addition, I seek information re. the Region’s intent re. this project and ask if EEAC has considered and have found answers to the following:

1. Is the Region seeking permission to:
 - destroy breeding habitat,?
 - interrupt migratory pathways? and/or
 - threaten the survival of eggs, juvenile or adult salamanders?
2. I am aware that proponents of development into sensitive areas often affirm that the consequences will be minimal. If that is the case here, how will the estimate of minimal risk to the salamander be determined?
3. Has the Region completed radio tagging to confirm the road will not destroy the winter under ground dens of adults?
4. Since the adults over winter under ground, does the Region know where these salamanders seek refuge? If so, how was it determined with only spring surveys?
5. Has the risk to all life stages of Jefferson been assessed? If so, will the road have negative consequences on eggs, juveniles, or adults?
6. How will road salt affect the eggs, juveniles, and adults? Will this salt harm the food that the salamander juveniles and adults eat?

Mr. Gosslin, as you are aware, an important additional consideration is that the presence of the Jefferson salamander in Hidden Valley was not properly addressed or identified in the original natural history inventory completed by the proponent. As such, this misidentification of the extent of the Jefferson salamander suggests that the current environmental impact analysis (EIA) used in the River Road Extension Class EA cannot be considered valid. In other words, the EIA used to complete the EA was based on incomplete natural history information. As such, the possible effects of the road on the Jefferson salamander were not considered in the designation of appropriate route alternatives. Hence, from my view, due to a grossly incomplete natural history inventory, the entire EA should be re-started. Similarly, if Jefferson salamander was missed, what other species-at-risk may occur on the subject lands that were never included in the original natural history inventory? Has this question been considered by the Region's staff and by the EEAC/? These are valid questions that the EEAC must consider.

It is my submission that with reference to the queries I have presented, that such understanding and answers to the same requires multi-season surveys and technical approaches such as radio telemetry. I further submit that if the road goes through the habitat where the salamanders overwinter, all of the mitigation measures to protect the vernal ponds will be for not.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil E. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil E. Taylor