

CITY OF HAMILTON
SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Committee Date: May 15, 2018

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Municipalities call on the Province for the “Right to Approve” Landfill Developments

WHEREAS municipal governments in Ontario do not have the right to approve landfill projects in their communities, but have authority for making decisions on all other types of development;

WHEREAS, this out-dated policy allows private landfill operators to consult with local residents and municipal Councils, but essentially ignore them;

WHEREAS, proposed Ontario legislation (Bill 139) will grant municipalities additional authority and autonomy to make decisions for their communities;

WHEREAS, municipalities already have exclusive rights for approving casinos and nuclear waste facilities within their communities, and the Province has recognized the value of municipal approval for the siting of power generation facilities;

WHEREAS, the recent report from Ontario’s Environmental Commissioner has found that Ontario has a garbage problem, particularly from Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste generated within the City of Toronto, where diversion rates are as low as 15% and, unless significant efforts are made to increase recycling and diversion rates, a new home for this Toronto garbage will need to be found, as landfill space is filling up quickly;

WHEREAS, municipalities across Ontario are quietly being identified and targeted as potential landfill sites for future Toronto garbage by private landfill operators;

WHEREAS, other communities should not be forced to take Toronto waste, as landfills can contaminate local watersheds, air quality, dramatically increase heavy truck traffic on community roads, and reduce the quality of life for local residents;

WHEREAS, municipalities should be considered experts in waste management, as they are responsible for this within their own communities, and often have decades’ worth of in-house expertise in managing waste, recycling, and diversion programs; and

WHEREAS, municipalities should have the exclusive right to approve or reject these projects, and assess whether the potential economic benefits are of sufficient value to offset any negative impacts and environmental concerns;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton calls upon the Government of Ontario, and all political parties, to formally grant municipalities the authority to approve landfill projects in, or adjacent to their communities, prior to June 2018;
- (b) That in the case of a two-tier municipality, the approval be required at both the upper-tier and affected lower-tier municipalities;
- (c) That the City of Hamilton encourages all other municipalities in Ontario to consider this motion calling for immediate Provincial action.