

January 16, 2007

Premier McGuinty

Via: dmcguinty.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Please accept this letter as a formal complaint against the Minister of Environment, Laurel Broten.

This is to express my discontent with the actions of the Minister of Environment, Laurel Broten. It is my opinion that her actions show a complete disregard for both the citizens of Ontario and their environment.

On Dec. 21, 2006, The Ministry of Environment announced that they granted Certificates of Approval for Lafarge Bath. "Lafarge will be allowed to use tires as fuel under strict conditions to CONFIRM the process can meet Ontario's strict air emissions" Peter Hargreave, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister.

At the same time, the Minister of Environment, Laurel Broten, proposed a province wide ban on the burning of tires. "This ban will give the Ministry scientists and experts the opportunity to ensure the environmental performance of facilities that convert tires to energy." – Peter Hargreave, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister.

NOTE: this proposed resolution came four months after Loyalist Township proposed a province wide moratorium on the use of alternative fuels in cement kilns until an environmental assessment was completed. Ironic that Loyalist Township is the only exception to her proposed resolution?

Prior to this decision, Loyalist Township, The City of Kingston, The KFL&A Board of Health and over 2000 residents submitted documentation requesting that this proposal be made subject to the closer scrutiny of, at a minimum, a public hearing.

This request was ignored. The Minister of Environment, to this day, has not even attempted to contact either municipalities or the residents at large to explain her decision to propose a province wide ban while exempting Loyalist Township. It is my opinion, that when a municipality makes a request on a matter of such importance, that its request be taken into high consideration. It is also my opinion, that when the Board of Health makes a request, this should also be taken into the highest regard, after all, they are the experts on human health, not the Minister of Environment.

The lack of communication by the Minister shows a complete disregard for the citizens and their municipal governments as well as the Board of Health network.

I also want to draw your attention to the timing of these announcements. Dec. 21st 2006, just one day before the Christmas holidays. With only 15 days to appeal (yes, all statutory holidays counted as appeal days), residents and environmental groups spent their entire holiday worrying and working on their response to this strategically timed

decision. It goes without saying that none of your ministry and MPP offices were open during that time. This in and of itself speaks volumes for the lack of compassion and respect by the Minister.

It is my firm belief that Minister Broten has demonstrated gross negligence for her responsibilities and should be made accountable for her actions. This is a decision that affects real families, real people, real children. As a leader of this government, I feel that it is your responsibility to address our concerns, since the Minister of Environment herself, has chosen not to.

I keep hearing in the news how this government is making the environment a top priority. My advice is that actions speak louder than words.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Trusting this is satisfactory.