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January 13, 2021

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
By Email: [Jonathan.Wilkinson@canada.ca](mailto:Jonathan.Wilkinson@canada.ca)

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

**Re: CN Milton Logistics Hub Project and Harm to Human Health from Air Pollution**

We are writing to you in light of the recent Governor in Council decision to extend the deadline for a decision on the proposed logistics hub project in Milton by Canadian National Railway (CN). As the Cabinet considers a variety of factors when assessing this project, we wish to raise with you a new landmark coroner ruling made in the United Kingdom that will have serious health implications as it relates to this project and the local impacts for Halton residents.

For the first time ever, on December 16, 2020, a London Coroner ruled that the death of a nine-year-old girl was caused by air pollution. In particular, the Coroner found air pollution had helped induce and exacerbate the girl's asthma which was largely attributed to exposure of traffic emissions. This landmark finding officially recognizes excessive air pollution (specifically referencing nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter) as a cause of death and will serve as an important case study that can be applied in other jurisdictions, including Canada.

As you are aware, the Federal Review Panel assessing the proposed CN project in Milton found that the project will have significant adverse effects on human health – the first Panel in the history of Canadian environmental assessments to have made such conclusion. The CN Milton project will add over 1,600 truck trips every day of the year within close proximity to 34,000 current and future residents, one hospital, twelve schools and two long-term care homes. The Panel found that the proposed project will increase the air concentration of three “no threshold” pollutants that are unsafe at any level, including nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. These Project emissions will have clear health effects on Halton residents as the Panel concluded that significant adverse effects from air pollution on human health cannot be mitigated.

As this recent ruling provides tangible evidence of the dangers of air pollution arising from this Project, it underscores the importance of the Government of Canada's unconditional statutory mandate to protect human health. Regardless of alleged justification for this Project's many significant adverse environmental effects, there can be no justification for failing to protect the health of tens of thousands of Halton residents.

**Regional Municipality of Halton**

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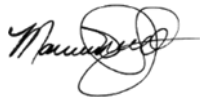
A copy of the coroners Record of Inquest can be found at the following link:

<https://www.innersouthlondoncoroner.org.uk/news/2020/nov/inquest-touching-the-death-of-ella-roberta-adoo-kissi-debrah>

Sincerely,



Gary Carr  
Regional Chair



Marianne Meed Ward  
Mayor, City of Burlington



Rick Bonnette  
Mayor, Town of Halton Hills



Gord Krantz  
Mayor, Town of Milton



Rob Burton  
Mayor, Town of Oakville

Cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., Prime Minister  
Federal Cabinet  
Marlo Reynolds, Chief of Staff, Office of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Adam van Koeverden, Member of Parliament, Milton  
Hon. Karina Gould, Member of Parliament, Burlington  
Hon. Anita Anand, Member of Parliament, Oakville  
Hon. Michael Chong, Member of Parliament, Wellington—Halton Hills  
Pam Damoff, Member of Parliament, Oakville North—Burlington  
Jane MacCaskill, Chief Administrative Officer, Halton Region