

For Immediate Release



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Friends of Simcoe Forests Pleased with Minister Clark's decision not to issue an MZO for County's waste project.

SPRINGWATER TOWNSHIP, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020 – The County of Simcoe asked the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing by a letter dated April 17, 2020, that a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) be issued for the County's Environmental Resource Recovery (ERRC) project. The letter cited delays at the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, costs incurred to date and the risk of losing over \$2 million in provincial funding as some of the reasons for its request.

The Friends of Simcoe Forests (FSF) is a local non-profit organization that seeks to protect and conserve forests in Simcoe County. FSF is one of three appellants of this project and has expended significant time, resources, and money through tireless fundraising efforts to prepare for the LPAT hearing process which is currently underway. The issuance of an MZO would have terminated the LPAT proceeding and would have left the legal, planning, and technical issues with the ERRC unresolved.

While in Oro Medonte Township with Premier Doug Ford on August 20, 2020, Minister Clark made the following statement referring to the issuance of MZO's. "No projects currently going through the Local Planning and Appeals Tribunal process are being considered," pointing to the County's ERRC project as an example.

FSF is very pleased with Minister Clark's decision not to intervene with the LPAT hearing process underway on this project.

FSF is not opposed to the ERRC project as a whole; rather the group has consistently stated that it opposes the County's decision to locate the ERRC in the middle of a Simcoe County Forest.

The Friends of Simcoe Forests Inc.
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