



February 6, 2024

Transmission : Original by email

Mayor Horwath
Hamilton City Hall
2nd Floor - 71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

RE: Exclusion of Industry and Commercial Sectors from the Climate Change Advisory Committee

Dear Mayor Horwath,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Geoffrey Knapper, General Manager of the Hamilton Environmental Association (HIEA), and I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent formation of the Climate Change Advisory Committee and the exclusion of representatives from local industry and commercial sectors.

HIEA (HIEA.org) is a not-for-profit association representing 13 industrial and manufacturing companies in the City of Hamilton. HIEA's mandate is to improve the local environment through partnership, consultation, and dialogue with all levels of governments, educational institutions, individual residents, and environmental groups. HIEA members believe their organizations are not only a key contributor to both Hamilton and Ontario's economy, but also an essential part of the fabric of the community.

HIEA member companies provide employment for over 7,300 direct industrial and manufacturing positions as well as an estimated 56,000 indirect jobs in Hamilton and surrounding municipalities. Since its inception in 1998 HIEA and its membership has invested over \$1.1 billion in environmental capital projects, contributed more than \$720 million in municipal property taxes, and donated over \$1 million in community and educational activities in Hamilton. HIEA and its members are committed to fostering a strong and sustainable future for the City of Hamilton, and all its residents.

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I understand the critical importance of addressing climate change in our community, and I commend the city's proactive approach in establishing the Climate Change Advisory Committee to help address this issue. However, I believe that a comprehensive and effective strategy must involve collaboration and input from all relevant stakeholders, including representatives from our industrial and commercial sectors. In Hamilton especially the industrial sector is playing a significant role in addressing climate change adaptation, and as such its perspective should be present.

The exclusion of appropriate representatives for the industry and commercial sectors from the committee raises concerns about the inclusivity and diversity of perspectives that are necessary for crafting well-rounded and practical climate change adaptation policies. Our local industries play a significant role in our community's economic development, and their expertise and input are invaluable in formulating strategies that balance environmental sustainability with economic growth.

In addition, the exclusion of relevant industry voices from the Advisory Committee risks creating a significant gap in the committee's understanding of practical and economic realities faced by local businesses. The Industrial and commercial sectors in Hamilton not only play a crucial role in our economy, but they also have practical insights and expertise that are essential for devising realistic and effective climate strategies. These vital aspects of climate change will not be adequately represented through the choices made by the selection committee.

I understand that the committee's primary goal is to advise on effective and sustainable climate policies. In my opinion the inclusion of a wide diversity of opinions it would have created a more balanced and informed dialogue that considers the unique challenges and opportunities faced by our residents, communities, and our local businesses.

HIEA and its members believe it is imperative that the City of Hamilton's approach to climate change should be balanced and comprehensive. This can only be achieved by including experienced representatives from all sectors, including industry, alongside environmental experts, community groups, and other stakeholders. A diverse committee is more likely to propose solutions that are innovative, practical, and widely acceptable.

HIEA and its members will continue to participate and support in climate change adaptation policy development and implementation through its participation in the Bay Area Climate Change Council as well as its individual member's undertakings. I am confident that by fostering open communication and collaboration among all stakeholders through these



channels, we can develop comprehensive and effective strategies to address climate change in our region.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to witnessing our community's continued commitment to a sustainable and resilient future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoffrey Knapper".

Geoffrey Knapper, General Manager
Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association

- c. Greg Dunnet, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
Richard Koroscil, Bay Area Climate Change Council
American Iron and Metal Sanimax
Air Liquide Stelco
ArcelorMittal Dofasco Triple M Metal Inc.
ArcelorMittal Hamilton East Inc.
Bunge
Birla Carbon Canada Ltd
Canadian Asphalt Industries Inc
Lafarge
Posner Metals Ltd
Rain Carbon Inc.