



HENDRIX CONSULTING

John W. Hendrix, M.S., P.W.S. • Environmental Consultant • 144 Bakers Acres Road, Hawthorne, FL 32640
phone/fax 352.475.1145 • cellular 352.359.8550 • hendrixconsulting@windstream.net

30 January 2021

Honorable Steve Clark, Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
MSG 2E5

VIA EMAIL

Subject: Invitation to Public Comment - The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
Environmental Registry of Ontario (Notice 019-2811)

Dear Minister Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the changes enacted through Bill 197, the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, passed on July 21, 2020.

I am an environmental professional from north Florida, USA, with family ties and affiliations with clients and residents of Toronto, and the community of Stratford. I am providing review and consultation in collaboration with Mr. Brett Caraway, Associate Professor, Assistant Director Digital Enterprise Management, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, & Technology, Institute for Management & Innovation, University of Toronto, and Ms. Kylie Caraway, Creative Artist and Environmental Communications consultant, Toronto, relating to the proposed Xinyi Glass Factory in Stratford, Ontario.

The Caraways, as Canadian permanent residents and residents of the Province of Ontario, and I, as a professionally associated American citizen, are very strongly opposed to the changes enacted under Bill 197, specifically with regard to the enhanced powers granted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to unilaterally remove

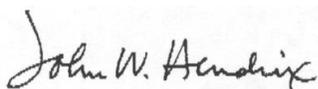
municipal use of site plan control, require agreements between the municipality and development proponents concerning site plan matters, and make amendments to Minister's Zoning Orders that use any of these enhanced authorities without first giving public notice or requiring public consultation.

These enhanced powers must be repealed and the power to determine the site plan controls returned to the municipalities. Further, and most importantly, no development should be allowed to take place in Ontario without the meaningful engagement and democratic consent of the people. These conclusions are confirmed and justified by the Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations ("FoNTRA") in its 16 October 2020 letter to you regarding *Minister's Zoning Orders*. The FoNTRA letter contends that "the current use of Minister's Zoning Orders...undermines the legitimacy of the statutory planning system. By stripping provisions for notices, public meetings, and rights of appeal from the zoning process ...the MZOs do not do so much as cutting red tape as purging ordinary citizens from the democratic planning process" and reasonably concludes, urging "the government to confine the use of MZOs to extraordinary situations arising from the pandemic and to swiftly discard the recent wide-spread and undemocratic *enhanced* approach...without notice, without public consultation, and without the right of appeal."

Clearly, the process which has led to the zoning and MZO approval of the Xinyi Glass Factory in Stratford is a prime example of how the MZO process can result in failure to provide for and include tribal and local community involvement in the public vetting and approval process. This failure is egregious and becomes much more procedurally problematic in the case of the Xinyi proposal. A float glass manufacturing facility of this magnitude is a regionally significant project which merits the widest, most comprehensive land use assessment, with full public outreach and involvement, especially when the facility is highly complex, energy intensive, and is intended to maintain continuous peak operation for years. The Xinyi project, which will rely heavily on local and regional infrastructure provision, has the potential to present unforeseen demands and impacts on the Stratford community, both direct and indirect, and risks undermining the sustainability of a stable, economically successful small community which has hosted and showcased a very unique and renowned international cultural attraction in the Stratford Festival and its venues for many years.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely Yours,



John W. Hendrix
Ecologist and Professional Wetland Scientist
Patron of the Stratford Festival, and
Member of the LM Community, Quinlan Road, Stratford

Copies:

Brett Caraway, Ph.D.

Kylie Caraway, KylieCaraway.com

Stratford Mayor and Council

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Councillor Brad Beatty
Councillor Graham Bunting
Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach
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Perth-Wellington MP and MPP

Hon. John Nater, Peth-Wellington MP

Hon. Randy Pettapiece, Perth-Wellington MPP

FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair FoNTRA
57 Duggan Avenue
Toronto Ontario M4V 1Y1

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair FoNTRA
129 Hanna Road
Toronto Ontario M4G 3N6