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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**CAM JACKSON, M.P.P.**  
BURLINGTON SOUTH

March 14, 1988

OPEN LETTER

The Honourable Jim Bradley  
Minister of the Environment  
135 St. Clair Avenue West  
15th Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
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Dear Jim:

I recently received a letter from Toby Vigod, legal counsel for the West Burlington Citizens Group, (WBCG) regarding intervenor funding for the Halton Landfill hearing in Halton Region. The hearings are being held to decide which of two regions, Halton or Milton, will be the recipient of a twenty-year landfill site. In originally applying for government financial aid, WBCG thought that the ad hoc practice was to make available \$30,000 for intervenors to appear at each joint Board hearing. In February, 1987, WBCG appeared before a funding panel of the Environmental Assessment Board and received a financial commitment from the panel for only \$15,000.

A letter from WBCG was sent to my office a year ago that outlined its intention to seek intervenor funding. I did not think their request for \$30,000 was an unreasonable amount especially since that amount has been awarded to other groups with similar requests. In support of this request I talked with you in the House and expressed concern over the Treasurer's support for these applications. It is hard to understand why \$30,000 was too much to give each group during a fiscal year in which your government received a surplus of \$1 billion in unanticipated tax revenues.

The \$15,000 and the additional funds WBCG raised through fundraising events will not be enough to continue its intervention because the public hearings have been extended longer than expected. There have been a number of reasons for the extension: the unfortunate illness of the then Chairperson during the summer months in 1987, the number of witnesses called by the Region, the time it took to cross-examine them, and the resignation of Ms Susan Tanner, a member of the board conducting the hearing, in order to accept an appointment to the Social Assistance Review Board by your government. Pete Pomeroy, Chairman of the Halton Regional Board, has expressed his "profound concern and shock" over this untimely resignation. According to Pomeroy, "this

demonstrates a clear lack of commitment by the Ontario Government to its own Environmental Assessment legislation and process."

I would like to arrange an appointment with you to discuss the WBCG's request for the appropriate level of intervenor funding. I cannot underscore the importance of this request. It would be very unfortunate if, at the end of Ontario's first consolidated hearing for a landfill site under the **Environmental Assessment Act**, critics question the board's conclusion because of limited intervenor funding from your government.

Yours very truly,

Cam Jackson, MPP  
Burlington South

/jbo