



Natalie Pierre, MPP  
Suite 306, 3027 Harvester Rd.  
Burlington, ON L7N 3G7

November 5, 2024

Dear Ms. Pierre,

CFUW is a self-funded, national organization of over 6,600 women whose mission is “to achieve educational and economic equality and social justice through continuous learning and empowerment”. Advocacy on significant issues of importance for the wellbeing of Canadians, and women in particular, is fundamental to the work of CFUW.

We are strongly opposed to the construction of Hwy. No. 413, which will have irreversible and devastating impacts on our complex natural ecosystems, including 75 fragile wetlands, and will pave over 400 acres of the Greenbelt and more than 2,000 acres of Ontario’s prime agricultural lands. This highway will impact sites of historic Indigenous importance, cross over 85 rivers and streams, and will fragment highly vulnerable aquifers. Recent changes to the Endangered Species Act and its regulations have already put several species at further risk, despite the Act’s preamble stating that “biological diversity is among the great treasures of our planet”.

In a time when Canada and its global partners are tackling climate change impacts, constructing a new highway that will result in the discharge of more than 17 million tonnes of additional CO2 emissions by 2050 is irresponsible and wasteful. An expert panel concluded that the time saved would be measured in seconds, not minutes or hours. Furthermore, members of our younger generation are choosing not to own cars, and in many cases do not even have a driver’s licence. A recent study done by Environics concluded that potential homebuyers would rather live in a housing form other than a single-detached house in the suburbs, if it meant living in a walkable neighbourhood. A new highway will only attract more cars and further exasperate urban sprawl.

As Hwy. No. 413 will run parallel to Hwy. No. 407 – an underused highway due to expensive tolls - the government’s focus should be to work with the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board to better utilize Hwy. No. 407 for essential truck traffic.

Finally, this concrete/asphalt monstrosity will cost billions of Ontarian’s precious tax dollars that would be better spent on cost-effective public transit, better health care, and SAVING our environment – not destroying it. CFUW urges your government to put the brakes on this costly and unnecessary venture – restore these lands to their original agricultural and ecological state – and reallocate these funds to matters of greater importance to Ontarians.

Sincerely,

Ruth Levkoe  
President, CFUW Burlington  
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