

December 1, 2021

To Mayor & Council,

**Re: Town of Newmarket, Committee of the Whole meeting, December 6th
— Bradford Bypass deputation by Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.**

I am writing to encourage your support of the request to designate the Bradford Bypass highway for a federal Environmental Assessment under the Impact Assessment Act.

The Ontario government has significantly weakened the provincial environmental assessment process for the Bradford Bypass via an exemption to the Environmental Assessment Act. As a result, the Bradford Bypass project would be allowed to fast-track construction through the Holland Marsh wetlands based on an outdated 1997 environmental assessment (EA). The original studies warned of contamination of surface and groundwater, loss of significant wetlands and habitats, increased air pollution and loss of farmland. The EA's approval in 2002 was conditional on performing additional studies on archaeological resources, stormwater management, hydrogeological systems (groundwater protection plan), noise, and compliance monitoring. The Province has now exempted itself from all of these conditions.

When some of the most devastating impacts of climate change are virtually on our doorstep, it is incomprehensible to me how a provincial government can be so reckless. We are calling on the federal government to designate the Bradford Bypass for a federal impact assessment. Please support the resolution presented by Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.

Thank you.

Catherine Wellesley
Newmarket, ON