



SIERRA CLUB ONTARIO

Honourable J. Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2T5

February 2, 2011

Honourable Minister J. Wilkinson,

Sierra Club Ontario supports the efforts of the Concord West Residents Ad Hoc Committee, the Concord West Seniors Club and the Concord West Ratepayers Association to protect the headwater lands of the West Don River, specifically the Bartley-Smith Greenway, where it is at its narrowest, from development. The Province of Ontario's plan to use this land for the development of the Concord GO/Metrolinx transportation hub is at odds with the McGuinty Government commitment to protect Ontario watersheds and wetlands. As well, there are alternative lands available for the GO/Metrolinx project that will not imperil this sensitive and important ecosystem.

Sierra Club is aware that the Bartley-Smith Greenway contains an important wetland that provides habitat for a wide range of plants and animals including the threatened Blanding's Turtle. Sierra Club shares with the Concord residents the need to protect rare and threatened ecosystems such as the Bartley-Smith Greenway. As well, Sierra Club is a member of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance which has as a key goal the inclusion of watershed lands in the Greater Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt. Sierra Club is actively working to achieve such watershed protection throughout Southern Ontario.

The development of Ontario transportation infrastructure is an important component of achieving the goal of reduced car dependency. Sierra Club fully supports the fulfillment of this vision. Locating the Concord GO/Metrolinx hub north of Highway 7 will result in win-win for the environmental goals of ecosystem and species protection and reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the development of mass transit. Sierra Club strongly urges the McGuinty Government to take the environmentally obvious path and not pursue one environmental objective at the expense of an irreplaceable natural heritage area.

Sincerely,

Dan McDermott, Director

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