



July 8, 2021

Warden Larry Martin  
Oxford County  
21 Reeve St.  
PO Box 1614  
Woodstock, ON N4S 7Y3

Dear Warden Martin and Oxford County Council,

**R RE: Southwestern Landfill Environmental Assessment Update**

As you are aware, in July 2020, the government of Ontario passed Bill 197, *The COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act*, which made significant changes to the *Environmental Assessment Act (the Act)*. New landfill applications now require proponents to obtain support from all municipal councils within 3.5 kilometres from a new proposed landfill site.

Walker's Southwestern Landfill proposal would provide much needed residual waste disposal capacity not just for Oxford County, but also for the entire province of Ontario. Despite continued efforts in waste reduction and recycling, landfills will continue to play an important role in how Ontario communities manage the approximately 12 million tonnes of residual waste requiring disposal each year. Additionally, modern landfills are safe and a crucial part of the provincial infrastructure necessary to protect public and environmental health.

At every step during this environmental assessment, Walker followed the science and followed the provincial process. We engaged and consulted with stakeholders and Indigenous peoples. We considered and incorporated their input. We demonstrated that the Southwestern Landfill would be safe while providing significant benefits to local communities, Indigenous communities, and the Province as a whole.

On July 7, 2021, the Township of Zorra passed a resolution declining to support the Southwestern Landfill proposal. As a result, we are informing you that we are putting the Southwestern Landfill Environmental Assessment on hold.

As a fifth generation, family-owned Ontario business, Walker has demonstrated its commitment to communities, environment, and future generations. Whether its diverting from landfill and composting food waste so nutrients can be returned back to the earth, creating low-carbon alternative fuels to help tackle climate change, or providing safe solutions for the disposal of residual waste that can't be reused or recycled – Walker has a long and successful track record of working with communities and businesses to create solutions to society's waste management challenges.

While we are disappointed with the outcome of our efforts to develop the proposed Southwestern Landfill in Oxford County, we remain open to future discussions on how we can work together to continue to support Oxford County communities with safe, reliable resource recovery and waste management solutions.

Warm regards,



**Darren Fry**  
**Project Director, Southwestern Landfill EA**  
*Environmental Division*

CC: Michael Duben, CAO – Oxford County  
Chloe Senior, Clerk – Oxford County