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**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. - 827

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NOV 10 2006

Mr. Denis Kelly
Regional Clerk
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket ON L3Y 6Z1



Dear Mr. Kelly:

Thank you for your letter of September 22, 2006 with regard to York Regional Council's adoption of recommendations made by the Solid Waste Management Committee, as well as information regarding the concept of "Zero Waste" and its connection to your waste management plans.

As Minister of the Environment, I appreciate that York Region is taking steps to minimize their reliance on landfill. Moves toward a concept of "Zero Waste" through an Integrated Waste Management Plan, a draft inter-municipal waste diversion strategy, as well as the Request for Proposal for the Dongara Fuel Pelletizing project show your commitment to dealing with waste both now, and in the future.

I also share your concerns about the overuse of packaging material and product related waste. One way we are working with business and industry in Ontario is to encourage the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) principle where a producer takes responsibility for a product over its complete life cycle, including management of the product and/or its packaging when it becomes waste. We are working with industry to develop the EPR program through the *Waste Diversion Act, 2002*. In addition, my ministry recently posted on the Environmental Registry for public comment a proposal for a regulatory approach that would exempt any EPR-based system designed and operated in accordance with regulatory requirements. This approach is to facilitate a more efficient way for manufacturers to establish product "take-back" programs.

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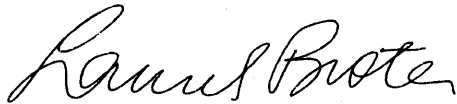
Mr. Denis Kelly
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Since waste reduction is a challenge across the country, I am also engaged in national discussions, through the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, with other provincial and federal Environment Ministers. I am encouraging a reduction in excess packaging, more recycled content, and design for recyclability. Reducing packaging will be more successful through harmonized standards across provinces and national-level programs.

Through these initiatives as well as those being taken by regions and municipalities, we are sure to make progress toward increasing waste diversion and minimizing end-of-product-life waste.

Thank you, again, for bringing Council's recommendations to my attention.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laurel C. Broten".

Laurel C. Broten
Minister of the Environment