



BUILDING A GREATER GTA
Building Industry and Land
Development Association

March 19, 2013

Chair and Members of the Environmental Services Committee
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street, Room 32020
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

**Re: Environmental Services Committee – March 20, 2013
Results and Impacts of Food Waste Grinders on Waste Diversion and Sewage Infrastructure
in York Region**

The Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) is in receipt of the March 20th staff report on the *Results and Impacts of Food Waste Grinders on Waste Diversion and Sewage Infrastructure in York Region* and we submit the following comments with respect to this program review.

BILD would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for its September 2012 decision to defer the implementation of the food waste grinder prohibition until March 2013. This deferral allowed for additional consultation with interested and affected stakeholders.

Subsequent to this deferral decision, York Region staff organized two supplementary consultation workshops with a variety of stakeholders including BILD representatives. We appreciate the additional time and resources that this Committee and York Region Staff dedicated to this consultation period. BILD appreciated the open dialogue that these workshops provided.

Our discussion at the workshops focused on whether food waste disposers could continue to be permitted in the Region. At the second workshop, the technical experts from the industry and York Region staff had difficulty reaching a consensus. We acknowledge that staff are recommending the continuation of the prohibition of food waste grinders. However, if food waste grinders were not banned, staff have suggested that water rates and development charges would need to be increased to achieve full cost recovery. BILD does not support this alternative mechanism, especially as it was not tabled at the workshops with affected stakeholders.

Again, we thank you for the additional consultation period and we would request formal notification of the Committee's decision on this item.

Sincerely,

Danielle Chin, RPP, MCIP
Senior Planner, Policy & Government Relations

Cc: Dennis Kelly, Regional Clerk, York Region
Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services, York Region
Laura McDowell, P. Eng. Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection Environmental Services Dept, York Region
Michele Samuels, Manager, Regulatory Compliance and Policy, Environmental Services, York Region
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