



March 18, 2013

Regional Councillor Vito Spatafora
Chair, Environmental Services Committee
The Regional Municipality of York
(via email)

Dear Councillor Spatafora:

Re: Results and Impacts of Food Waste Grinders on Waste Diversion and Sewage Infrastructure in York Region

The Greater Toronto Apartment Association (GTAA) represents the interests of greater Toronto's most active and concerned firms participating in the multifamily rental housing industry. Our members own and manage more than 140,000 suites of multi-residential housing in the GTA.

Our members are interested in all aspects of waste management including diversion policies and programs. We educate and provide training to our members to assist them in implementing effective programs for diversion, recycling and most recently organic waste (namely food scraps) separation.

As the representative for the apartment industry, the GTAA advocates for the freedom to implement any permitted technology/methodology to improve the operational efficiency of our buildings and the comfort of our residents.

After many years of ongoing research and discussions, we realize that there is not one single magic solution in regards to handling food waste. In the apartment sector, there is considerable variation in building shape, size, massing, and other physical attributes. What works best in one building may not be ideal in another building. For this reason, we support all proven options.

We believe that the use of in-sink food waste grinders will augment a source separated organics collection (green bin) program. Green bins do not capture all of the food waste generated in a home. Potato peels, food scraps after dinner,

and similar are easily caught in an in-sink food waste grinder. Permitted use of this technology will not replace the green bin – it will augment it and capture more organics. It is a valuable method to improve diversion.

The staff report notes that perhaps 3% of the households in York Region have an in-sink food waste grinder. This rather insignificant penetration rate, taken into consideration begs the question “**why is the Region suddenly so afraid of a technology that has been permitted for decades without any problems?**”

There does not appear to be any indicator that a ground swell of popularity and use is imminent. We **respectfully request that the sewer use by-law remain silent on this matter.**

Instead of banning a technology that assists in higher diversion, York Region should continue to allow its use and routinely monitor and measure the situation. In the future, if the use of in-sink food waste grinders increases to a value that causes concern, only then should consideration of a ban be brought forward.

Leave it for now, then watch it. Respectfully, for now it is *much ado about nothing*.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Daryl Chong
President & CEO
Greater Toronto Apartment Association

- c. Bill Fisch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative Officer
Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk
Environmental Services Committee Members, c/o Ghislaine Boulianne