



CountryWide Homes
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March 08, 2013

Regional Councillor Mr. Vito Spatafora
Chair - Environmental Services Committee
The Regional Municipality of York
C/O Office of the Regional Clerk
17250 Yonge Street, 4th Fl.
Newmarket, ON., L3Y 6Z1

Dear Councillor Spatafora:

I am a homebuilder that operates within the Region of York.

As we communicated with you last September, I and my colleagues continue to be concerned that the York Council is considering endorsement of a by-law that would ban the future installation of food waste grinders, or disposers, in homes within the Region.

We continue to advise strongly that the York Council reject the proposed ban, based on our industry's knowledge of the homebuilding industry, the wishes of homeowners for the convenience of modern appliances that are environmentally beneficial, and the issues of concern that have been well-studied by our industry.

The most important example of our perspective is that the National Green Building Standard (NGBS) – developed by the National Association of Home Builders and the International Code Council, in accordance with ANSI standards – recognizes the importance of food waste disposers in both single- and multi-family homes by awarding a credit for their installation. That credit was vetted at two distinct points – when the NGBS was initially adopted, and this past year via its regular update process.

The U.S. Green Building Council also recognized the efficacy of disposers by awarding an Innovation/Design credit for a LEED Gold-rated project that included disposers as the central element in an aggressive waste management system.

In our view, neither of the above recognitions would have been achieved if the impacts asserted by York staff were supported by facts and evidence, or regarded as consequential. With more than 60 million disposers installed in North American homes, the "wisdom of crowds" also should be acknowledged as evidence of their considerable benefits. Continuing technical research and best practice experience from around the world supports the use of disposers as an important environmental appliance, and a growing number of municipal endorsements from Sweden to China.

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In addition to other unintended consequences of the Council's ban, we are especially concerned about the potential impact on our business if the use of food waste disposers is denied to York residents.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the York Council reject this poorly-conceived by-law, returning to the status quo of no restrictions on the installation of household disposers.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dino Giacomelli", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Dino Giacomelli
Contracts Manager

cc Mr. Bill Fisch, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Bruce Macgregor, Chief Administrative officer
Environmental Services Committee members
Regional Clerk