



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

September 30, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Correspondence from the City of Kitchener requesting support for their resolution respecting the lobbying of the Federal Government to review the regulations related to consumer packaging on single-use wipes to remove the word flushable.

At the meeting of September 25, 2019, Hamilton City Council endorsed the City of Kitchener's resolution respecting the above matter as follows:

"WHEREAS in 2018 the City of Kitchener implemented a sustainable funding model Water Infrastructure Project (WIP) for the city's water, sanitary and stormwater infrastructure to ensure the safe delivery of these valued utilities;

WHEREAS in 2018 a multi-year initiative approved through the WIP has already improved several key measures of water quality, and proactive maintenance has reduced the risk of flooding in high-risk areas;

WHEREAS in 2018 the City has already seen a number of impacts due to the implementation of the WIP including: 48% decrease in complaints related to discoloured water; Storm main repairs increased by 27 per cent; 300 metric tonnes of sediment removed from catch basins; and, 2,200 properties protected against backflow and cross-connection contamination;

WHEREAS Single-use wipes are a \$6-billion industry and growing, and are now being advertised as the clean alternative to toilet paper and are safe to flush;

WHEREAS there is no one standard for what the word "flushable" means;

WHEREAS Single-use wipes are in fact not safe to flush as they are buoyant; are not biodegradable; and, are unable to break down into small pieces quickly;

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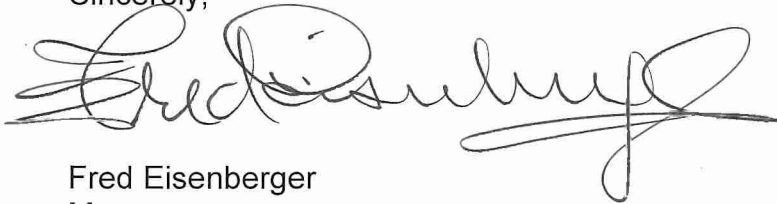
WHEREAS Single-use wipes accumulate in the sewer system and eventually clog the sanitary sewer system costing municipalities hundreds of millions of dollars in additional repairs and maintenance costs each year to municipal sewer systems across the country; and

WHEREAS there is a lack of public awareness of the impact caused by non-flushable wipes being flushed down toilets and consumer education and outreach could play a large part in reducing the impact;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the City of Kitchener lobby the Federal Government, to review regulations related to consumer packaging on single-use wipes to remove the word flushable; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Premier of Ontario; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Local Members of Provincial Parliament; the Region of Waterloo; and, all Municipalities within the Province of Ontario."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Eisenberger', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

Cc:

Minister Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Minister Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Andrea Horwath, MPP
Paul Miller, MPP
Sandy Shaw, MPP
Donna Skelly, MPP
Monique Taylor, MPP
The Region of Waterloo
All Municipalities within the Province of Ontario

File C19-016
(5.1)