September, 2013

Mayor Bob Bratina
City of Hamilton
1st-71 Main St W
City Hall
Hamilton, On L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Bratina and Council:

I want to share with you the details of my latest Private Member’s Bill, the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act. I believe it will be an effective measure to encourage and increase aggregate recycling in Ontario. Bill 56, if adopted, would ensure that recycled aggregates can be included in construction projects paid for with public money. The Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act is about helping to address the need for aggregates, while at the same time preserving the finite supply of land from which aggregates are extracted.

Currently, across Ontario there are several public sector agencies like the Ministry of Transportation and some municipalities that are doing a great job incorporating recycled aggregates into their construction work, but we can do more. There are still too many cases where construction work paid for with public money is forced, through the procurement process, to use only 100% primary or virgin aggregates.

Research has proven that recycled aggregates are as safe and reliable as primary aggregates. I believe the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act balances the need for aggregate extraction by encouraging the use of recycled aggregates.

I plan to debate Bill 56 in September and I would appreciate receiving any feedback you may have on the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act. Enclosed please find an overview of the bill for your convenience. If you are interested in reviewing the actual bill, please visit www.sylviajonesmpp.ca or call 416-325-1898.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Jones, MPP
Dufferin-Caledon

Encl.
Currently across Ontario, there are dozens of public sector bodies like the Ministry of Transportation and select municipalities that are doing a great job incorporating recycled aggregate into their construction work, but we can do more.

"The Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act is about helping to address the need for aggregates, while at the same time preserving the finite supply of land from which we extract."

- Sylvia Jones MPP, speaking during the introduction of Bill 56 on Earth Day, 2013

The appropriate testing procedures and standards already exist to ensure that recycled aggregate is as safe and reliable as primary aggregate. MTO has been using them for years, and other publicly-funded institutions should be too. Unfortunately, there are still too many examples where construction work paid for with public money is awarded through a procurement process that forces contractors to use only primary (or “virgin”) aggregate.

Recycled aggregate has proven to be as safe and reliable as primary aggregate. No one should be prevented from competing for a contract solely because they propose to use recycled aggregate.

If an Ontario business wants to submit a bid to build or resurface a road, then they should be able to include recycled aggregate in their proposal. That is not something we should be stopping; that is something we should be promoting.

"I say to my fellow members: Let’s get it done, let’s show some leadership, let’s promote aggregate recycling in Ontario."

- Sylvia Jones MPP, speaking during the introduction of Bill 56 on Earth Day, 2013

With over 3 million tonnes of recycled aggregate sitting in stock-piles across Ontario and more accumulating daily, now is the time to start promoting aggregate recycling. I chose Earth Day to introduce my PMB because at its heart, the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act is about helping to address the need for aggregate, while at the same time preserving the finite supply of land from which we extract.
How YOU Can Help

- If you believe that aggregate recycling is important and something that should be promoted, I encourage you to support the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act, 2013. Please write to your local MPP and ask them to support Bill 56. You can find contact information for your MPP by visiting the Ontario Legislative Assembly website at www.ontla.on.ca. Please be sure to copy MPP Sylvia Jones in your correspondence at sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org.

- To get a copy of Bill 56, go online to www.sylviajonesmpp.ca or call 416-325-1898.

- Share this information with friends, family, and anyone interested in promoting aggregate recycling in Ontario.

- If you have feedback on this bill, please send it to sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org.

Testimonial to Bill 56

"I am very pleased to see that Sylvia has again taken the lead with her Private Member's Bill, the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act. This Bill will help preserve resources and reduce the need for prime agriculture land to be turned into a quarry. The desire to use recycled aggregate was expressed clearly in the review of the Aggregate Resources Act."

- Bill Hill, Mayor, Melancthon Township

"We commend Sylvia Jones for introducing the Aggregate Recycling Promotion Act. This bill recognizes the economic and environmental benefits of better managing this undervalued resource. It is our sincere hope that all parties will support and expedite approval of Bill 56 as soon as possible, and get it passed into law."

- Ed Persico, Chair, Aggregate Recycling Ontario

If you would like more information or have questions about Bill 56, please contact the office of Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon at:

Room 443, Legislative Building, Queens Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A8, (416) 325-1898 or 244 Broadway, Orangeville, ON, L9W 1K5, 1-800-265-1603 or 12596 Regional Road 50, Bolton, ON, L7E 1T6

Email: sylvia.jonesqp@pc.ola.org