To All Municipalities in the Province of Ontario:

Re: Recommendations in “Watertight: The Case for Change in Ontario’s Water and Wastewater Sector”

Brant County Council recently approved the following recommendation of its Public Works – Environmental Services Committee, and respectfully requests the support of your municipality:

"Whereas the Public Infrastructure Renewal Minister commissioned a Water Strategy Expert Panel in August, 2004 to determine the best ways to organize systems and deliver safe, clean and affordable water and wastewater services in the Province while ensuring public ownership of these systems;

And whereas the findings of the Expert Panel's report are published as “Watertight: The Case for Change in Ontario's Water and Wastewater Sector” released on July 22, 2005;

And whereas Recommendation 5.1 of the report states that “The Province should amend O.Reg 168/03, under the Municipal Act, to allow municipalities to form corporations to deliver water and wastewater services and to own or lease the relevant assets, or to deliver a range of municipal services including water and wastewater and to make it possible for more than one municipality to share in the ownership of such corporations”;

And whereas Recommendation 5.2 states that “At least two-thirds of the directors of the board of a water service should be drawn from private life, with any remainder consisting of appointments from municipal council”;

And whereas the principal plants forming the water distribution and wastewater collection systems are almost always integrated with the infrastructure of other municipal utilities such as roads and storm sewers constructed in the road right-of-way, all of which is usually owned and operated by the municipality;

And whereas the administration related to the needs analysis, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the municipal infrastructure in the road right-of-way is often carried out by each municipality’s Public Works Department or similar single body, an organizational structure that readily accommodates coordination of activities between the utilities;

And whereas the recommendations to form a separate special purpose body with a majority membership drawn from private life would result in fragmentation of the administration of utilities;

Be it therefore resolved that the County of Brant strongly objects to Recommendations 5.1 and 5.2 of the Expert Panel report “Watertight: The Case for Change in Ontario’s Water and Wastewater Sector” to form special purpose bodies with two-thirds membership from private life to administer the delivery of water and wastewater services on the basis that:

a. Separation of the administration of services of the municipal infrastructure will promote fragmentation of the administration of the utilities in the road right-of-way;

b. Separation of the administration of services will fragment the coordination of planning and implementation of constructed works required for growth and development; and

c. Creating a board with two-thirds membership from private life is contrary to the democratic principle of citizens electing their governing body, which administering the works through municipal councils supports;

That the County of Brant petition the Province of Ontario to not implement Recommendations 5.1 and 5.2 of the report and suggest that where it is beneficial and mutually agreeable to municipalities to share services, that they be encouraged to do so on a voluntary basis;

And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal, the Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment, David Levac, M.P.P. Brant Riding, Toby Barrett, M.P.P. Haldimand-Norfolk-Brant Riding and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for circulation to all municipalities for their support.”

Jayne Carman, Clerk
County of Brant