

**Ministry of Natural
Resources and Forestry**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des Richesses
naturelles et des Forêts**

Bureau du ministre

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Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1W3
Tél.: 416-314-2301



October 14, 2020

Mr. John MacKenzie
Chief Executive Officer
Toronto Region Conservation Authority
john.mackenzie@trca.ca

Dear Mr. MacKenzie:

I am writing this letter regarding the development of Durham Live. As you are aware, both the Town of Ajax and the City of Pickering support the development of this substantial regional entertainment complex which would include a world class facility that has the potential to bring 10,000 skilled employment opportunities to Ontario.

The City of Pickering has asked my colleague, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to use his powers under the *Planning Act* to issue a zoning order that would allow for a distribution centre and film production facility on the portion of the site located west of Squires Beach Road.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has requested that consideration of the zoning order be done alongside any negotiated compensation agreement between the municipality, property developer and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) in keeping with the principles of the [Guideline for Determining Ecosystem Compensation](#).

If Minister Clark issues a zoning order to permit the development of Durham Live, the MNRF is available to assist and support the TRCA to provide scientific peer review of the proposal or any other technical support or facilitation that TRCA requires to move forward. We at MNRF have done a preliminary review of the studies submitted by Beacon Environmental and believe there is merit in reviewing reclassification of the wetland areas west of Squires Beach Road.

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Please contact Sharon Rew, Regional Director, Southern Region, at (705) 755-3235 or sharon.rew@ontario.ca should you have an interest in discussing this matter further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Yakabuski", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Yakabuski
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sharon Rew, Regional Director, Southern Region, MNRF