From:
To: Clerks

Subject: Input for Battery Energy Storage Facility Proposals

Date: November 26, 2023 2:17:00 PM

Dear Members of Township of Brock Council, I wish to provide comments for the Battery Energy Storage Facility Proposals, which are summarized in the Township of Brock Interoffice Memo, Proposed Battery Energy Storage Facilities, dated 21 November 2023.

I am opposed to adding the facilities described in this memo and supporting materials for the following reasons:

- The proposals request to locate battery energy storage facilities on prime agricultural land. The proposed projects are contradictory to the Zoning and Designations as well as the Greenbelt Plan and these legislations are in place to guide for appropriate land use. Given that Ontario is losing 319 acres of farmland daily (2021 Census of Agriculture), the accompanying loss of employment and food security risks facing Ontarians, these projects do not benefit our community and indeed compromise the lands as assets.
- The proposed locations for the facilities are easily within 7 kilometers of Lake Simcoe and are clearly within the Lake Simcoe watershed. In order to protect and conserve the Lake and watershed, which supports the lives of people, animals, insects, plants as well as industries including agriculture, recreation and tourism. it is critical to choose the location of infrastructure near it. Considering the nature and inherent risks associated with a battery energy storage facility, these facilities should not be built and operated as proposed.
- While noting the shift to increased electrical use and need for new capacities, the proposals do not appear to provide any "upside" for the Township of Brock and its residents and instead seem to add new risks that will need to be managed. In addition to the points made above, the projects include new fire safety risks, uncertainties for the duration and end of life of the projects, while providing questionable short-term and no longer-term benefits.

For these reasons, I urgently request for Council to not agree to accept these proposals and ensure that these and other inputs are heard and prioritized during the consideration of such proposals.

