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**From:** MacDonald, Heath - M.P. <heath.macdonald@parl.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 10:57 AM  
**To:** Allison MacEwan; Petrol Inquiries  
**Subject:** Letter of Opposition to PD527 - application for a new retail gasoline outlet in Borden

Dear Mr. MacEwan,

I write to you today in support of Ceretti's Grocery and Hardware and Howatt's Shell and in opposition to application PD 527 which would allow for a new retail gasoline outlet and convenience store in the Town of Borden. With a population of 788 according to the 2021 census, Borden is currently well served with three retail gas outlets that provide various forms of fuel, convenience, and food options. With 2022 annual average daily traffic on the Confederation Bridge still below 2017 levels, there is no demonstration of increased demand in the community beyond what has been previously and effectively serviced by the three pre-existing retail gasoline outlets and convenience stores.

Ceretti's and Howatt's have served the Town of Borden and surrounding communities for generations, play an important role in welcoming and serving tourists who first arrive in our beautiful province, and they also supported the many individuals who constructed and continue to work at the Confederation Bridge, in addition to the ferry service that came before it. They've chosen to invest in Borden and make Borden the home of their businesses, and in doing so they've provided significant community support over the years. Despite these strong roots in the community, both businesses face a significant threat with the prospect of a fourth retail gasoline outlet and convenience store within such a short distance.

While retail gas volume in PEI has increased by 33,148,903 liters from 1998-2021, it's also important to note that the number of sites offering retail gas as decreased by 53 in that same time. This means 53 cases of lost services, and 53 cases of local businesses no longer operating and creating jobs for those in the community. We should not view this consolidation of services as a success story, despite overall retail gas volumes increasing. Additionally, as both levels of government work towards expanding the use of electric vehicles, it is not clear that the trend of increasing retail gas volume will continue well into the future. The Government of Canada was proud to support the construction of EV chargers at the Esso in Borden, and we look forward to opportunities to expand such infrastructure within the community.

In reviewing this application, I urge you to consider both the demand for and the impact of this decision.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heath



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