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Sent: Thursday, July 27, 2023 1:49 PM
To: Allison MacEwen <AMacEwen@irac.pe.ca>
Cc: jdfoxmla@assembly.pe.ca
Subject: RE: PD527 - DP Murphy proposal

Greetings IRAC,

I am a come-from-away who spends time in the Borden-Carleton region during the summer months. It's a small and mighty community. I am always thankful for the offerings of local businesses and am a regular customer at Howatt's for fuel, beach snacks, and pantry essentials and milk.

While I've only been to Cerretti's once and may have a limited appreciation for the depth of goods available within, the fresh food selection alone is a gift to the local community. Further, I've often heard mention of 'how amazing the hardware selection is at Cerretti's' from a variety of people. One woman with a major plumbing issue said she found what she needed at Cerretti's after failing to find what she needed in Summerside at Home Hardware and Canadian Tire.

Another friend has a family member who cannot drive due to illness - Cerretti's and Howatt's work with families to ensure groceries are delivered when necessary (as well as allow purchases on credit) to keep the community fed.

I know these two businesses employ local people of a variety of ages. I know these businesses have ridden out a variety of economic - sometimes dramatic - shifts in local business patterns, construction, and competition. These are the businesses open all year when the tourism sector closes shop - these are the businesses committed to serving and employing their local community where many buildings are shuttered for months and rely on short-term employees who may come from a variety of places vs the local community.

How committed is DP Murphy et al to ensuring community needs are met as part of their business plan? what about providing access to more than Tim Hortons and other low quality, over-priced food? a commitment to only hiring local labour?! Perhaps these nuances are included in their proposal, however, I do believe it is unlikely.

The next closest fuel station after Howatt's is Summerside or Crapaud. There's a lot of highway between that would be a better location if another gas station is about serving people who live on and visit PEI. From here it looks like literal 'grass cutting' - Murphy's wants to be positioned as close to the front of the line of service stations after the bridge as possible and claims it's not about competition. Supporting this in any way is terrible optics for IRAC.

It is curious to me that the 'big guys' like the bridge commission and others are weighing in - are they consider community members? should they be? I wonder what the relationship of Murphy et al is (formally and informally) to these arguably corporate entities.

In the news today Jamie Fox - MLA for the area - was quoted indicating he submitted a petition with more than 600 signatures from a community of less than 800 people. This should be considered significant and a clear indication of community 'temperature' on the matter.

Part of the appeal of PEI to so many is the slower pace and rural feel. I wonder how this proposal is in alignment with rural development and supporting communities in how they choose to grow and develop? I also wonder how introducing another fast food restaurant (rumour is there's a Wendy's with this deal as well as another Tim's) into such a small community is aligned with Ministry of Health goals for the province with respect to access to healthy, affordable food - especially if this business out competes the only grocery store in the community.

This is NOT just a business decision. It has major implications for the health and economic stability of the community. What does an evidence-based decision look like in a case like this? It requires a view beyond the business ledgers and corporate promises.

It is my wish, my hope, my petition, that the answer is as clear to you as a committee as it seems to be from here. The project isn't the problem, the location is. That work is happening on the site without official approval leaves the community feeling 'all the decisions have been made'.

I implore you to prove the critics wrong and restore trust in public process. Please refuse this alleged 'growth' in Borden-Carleton.

Sincerely and honouring all my relations, Jann Ticknor