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Allison MacEwen
Prince Edward Island Regulatory & Appeals Commission
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Dear **Mr.** MacEwen:

RE: Comment on PD527 – New Retail Gasoline Outlet Application – D.P. Murphy

I am writing to you to express my opposition to DP Murphy's application to locate a gas bar and convenience store in the Town of Borden-Carleton. The town is currently served by 3 gas bars, Ceretti's, Howatt's Tourist Mart and the Esso. Both Ceretti's and Howatt's Tourist Mart are long established family businesses in our town. They are locally run and operated. Both businesses provide employment opportunities within our town and are very community oriented by sponsoring many events such as Christmas In the Park, Canada Day events, and sports events.

It is my understanding that an application for a petroleum license will be approved if there is a need in the area for the service. As a long-time resident of this town, I can tell you that there has never been a time when the need for gasoline service has not been met by these businesses in neither the off season or tourism season. All three gasoline bars have more than adequately provided gas service to the residents of our town and the motoring public.

The proposed location for DP Murphy's gas bar and convenience store is located directly adjacent to Ceretti's Grocery and Hardware. If this application is approved, it will significantly impact business at Ceretti's as well as Howatt's. As you are aware Ceretti's not only provides gasoline to our community most importantly they are our local grocery store and hardware store. Many residents and families rely on this service within our community. This is also especially important to seniors within the area as the staff at Ceretti's delivers groceries to seniors that are not physically able to leave their homes. Given this, the question at hand is not will the addition of another gas bar provide a needed service to our area. The question the commission needs to consider in their deliberations is, if another gasoline bar is approved, does the community stand to gain a service or lose a service? In my view the area that is served by both Howatt's and Ceretti's stands to lose these essential services. If these services are lost it will greatly impact the vitality of our town.

Another point for the commission to consider, a letter of support was provided to the commission by the Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island. In that letter the CEO endorsed Mr. Murphy's proposed project. The CEO indicated that "it would create an arrival center for the Island." This statement is rather surprising as I would ask the commission, what is the purpose of Gateway Village? Was it not constructed to create an arrival center for visitors coming to Prince Edward Island? Should the Tourism Industry Association of Prince Edward Island not have consulted with the town and the province of PEI before making such a statement?

The town of Borden Carleton in 2016 participated in the STEP Program (Strategic Tourism Expansion Program). The town's main objective with participating in this program was to boost destination potential within the Town. One of the main objectives focused on in this study was to direct growth and development to Gateway Village. In addition, in 2018 the Town completed a master plan (Destination Borden-Carleton). This document also identified Gateway Village as the downtown core for the town and directed services to be located within Gateway Village and discouraged services to be located outside that core. Both documents also discussed the importance of local business and how these small business like Ceretti's and Howatt's contribute to the uniqueness of the town. There are very few local general stores left on Prince Edward Island when at one time they were the main stay of our island.

DP Murphy has applied for a petroleum license, but his application also includes a Tim Horton's restaurant and a convenience store. There is also talk around the community that Mr. Murphy is seeking to have the liquor store moved from Gateway Village to his property. If this happens it will also remove another business from Gateway Village. I would assume this will also have an impact on Lone Oak as both businesses create traffic for each other.

In closing I would like to reiterate my strong opposition to DP Murphy's application for a petroleum license and respectfully ask that the commission examine the long-term impacts that approving this application may have on our community.

Sincerely,



Perry Thompson