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April 30, 2025

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Honorable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Re: Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Expand Strong Mayor Powers and Duties to Additional Municipalities

Dear Minister Flack,

Thank you for your letter dated April 9, 2025, regarding your intention to expand strong mayor powers to the Town of Deep River.

I am writing as requested by Council, to emphasize that the most significant barrier to support the provincial priorities which *"include supporting the construction of new homes, economic development and building infrastructure that supports community growth, including housing-enabling infrastructure like water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as roads, highways, transit and more"* is a lack of financial resources for infrastructure projects.

Over the past several years the Town of Deep River has been investing in infrastructure projects at a rate that is not sustainable to create capacity for new residential development which is currently in the planning stages. During this same period, we have requested grant funding from the Province of Ontario through infrastructure grant applications and delegations to ministers at both AMO and ROMA to support our growth initiatives but have been unsuccessful to date.

Our primary barrier to growth in the Town of Deep River is a lack of financial support for infrastructure projects to generate capacity. This in my opinion would have a much higher impact on new housing growth than strong mayor powers will for the Town of Deep River.



I would be more than happy to answer any questions or discuss how Deep River can help to promote and achieve Ontario's housing targets.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Patterson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sean Patterson
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Deep River
613-584-2000 ext., 108
spatterson@deepriver.ca

