

THE GREATER TORONTO AREA COUNTRYSIDE MAYORS' ALLIANCE

Date: May 22, 2009

Moved by: Mayor Rick Bonnette (The Town of Halton Hills)

Seconded by: Mayor Marilyn Pearce (Township of Scugog)

WHEREAS the world's economy has entered into a period of slow economic growth;

AND WHEREAS Governments throughout the world have introduced various stimulus packages to encourage economic growth;

AND WHEREAS the United States of America is Canada's largest trading partner and a signatory of the North American Free Trade Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayors' Alliance is supportive of Free Trade between Canada and the United States which has existed for many years;

AND WHEREAS the Government of the United States of American has introduced infrastructure stimulus packages including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which includes "Buy American" provisions for steel and other manufactured products;

AND WHEREAS these restrictive provisions which are contrary to the spirit of free trade will prevent Canadian companies from bidding on contracts which contain the "Buy American" provisions at the municipal and state levels in the United States since NAFTA and The General Procurement Agreement of the World Trade Organization do not nullify such provisions at those levels;

AND WHEREAS Canadian stimulus infrastructure programs do not contain any restrictions on manufacturers from other countries including the United States bidding on such contracts in Canada;

AND WHEREAS Canadian companies may be adversely affected by these restrictions possibly leading to lay-offs and financial losses and further could lead to the erosion of their overall viability;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayor's Alliance (GTACMA) is supportive of Free Trade between the United States and Canada and that the restrictive "Buy American" provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are contrary to that spirit of free trade;

AND FURTHER THAT IT BE RESOLVED that the GTACMA supports the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters in its quest to have the United States Congress reconsider and repeal their current “Buy American” requirements for the United States stimulus packages;

AND FURTHER THAT IT BE RESOLVED that Canadian municipalities adopt a procurement policy that future Canadian Infrastructure projects at the municipal level, including environmental projects such as water and wastewater treatment projects, require that any goods and materials required for the projects be bought only from companies whose countries of origin do not impose local trade restrictions against goods and materials manufactured in Canada to better ensure open, fair and competitive practices across the globe;

AND FURTHER THAT IT BE RESOLVED that the GTACMA requests the Town of Halton Hills to present this resolution to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for their consideration of endorsement, with a request that it be presented at its annual convention June 5-8, 2009;

AND FURTHER THAT IT BE RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Premier of Ontario, the Federal and Provincial Ministers of Trade and Industry, the Regions of Durham, York, Peel, Halton and all municipalities therein, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association (CME).

Motion carried,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marolyn Morrison", is written above a horizontal line.

Mayor Marolyn Morrison
Chair
Greater Toronto Area Countryside Mayors' Alliance