

**Ministry of
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January 13, 2011

Senator Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
U.S.A.

Senator Carl Levin
United States Senate
269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
U.S.A.

Dear Senator Stabenow and Senator Levin:

Thank you for your letter of October 19, 2010 regarding the progress Ontario municipalities have made in meeting their 2006 commitment to eliminate all municipally managed waste shipments to Michigan by the end of 2010.

While I was not in my current position in 2006 when this agreement was reached, I would like to stress that I share your views related to the importance of this agreement and want to assure you that I take these commitments very seriously.

At the time of the agreement, all four Toronto area municipalities (City of Toronto, York Region, Durham Region and Peel Region) were shipping waste to Michigan landfills. These municipalities committed to:

- reducing their waste shipments to Michigan by 20 percent by the end of 2007;
- reducing their waste shipments to Michigan by 40 percent by the end of 2008; and
- a complete end to shipments at the end of 2010.

I am pleased to inform you that these municipalities have all ceased shipping their waste to Michigan as of December 2010, as per their 2006 commitments.

These municipalities have been able to stop their waste shipments to Michigan because of:

- the municipalities having secured long-term disposal options for their waste that do not involve Michigan landfills; and
- their expansion of waste diversion programs.

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Attached to this letter is a report that outlines the progress made by the province and our municipalities. This information includes estimates for 2010, and I expect that by February 2011, we will be able to report final quantities for 2010. My staff would also be pleased to speak to your staff regarding the attached report and any other questions you may have on this important issue.

Thank you, again, for writing, and I look forward to providing you with the final quantities as they become available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Wilkinson
Minister of the Environment

Attachment