

I would like this letter to be on the public record.

This morning as I awoke to the sun rising and birds chirping, I was ready to start the day on my 3rd-generation family fruit farm that has been serving London for over 50 years. Then, as I walked outside... BOOM! Like smacking into a brick wall, my senses were assaulted by that distinctive "barn" stench. The air was mostly calm, but there was a slight breeze from the West. What is about 1km away to the West? Certainly not a barn full of animals, since that property is zoned AG4, which allows a residence only, and no farming operation. But alas, someone is breaking the law (again/still), and is keeping livestock on the property once again. I can hear the sheep bleating from the far end of our property, and could see the animals roaming around outside the barn while I was working in a nearby field.

So now, where I should be smelling the sweet aroma of strawberries, I'm smelling nothing but filth. And council wants to allow this on a much larger scale? How can you talk about protecting agricultural operations when you want to unleash this scourge on our well-established farm? I guarantee you that we are providing more and healthier food, and more jobs for our community, than this proposed slaughterhouse which is chronically mismanaged. Not to mention that numerous studies also show that working in a slaughterhouse has negative effects on mental health

([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZLRWYz0VpVFcqEUZfz0Dv\\_zL60WeoFW58karIEVQfmM](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZLRWYz0VpVFcqEUZfz0Dv_zL60WeoFW58karIEVQfmM)).

On our farm, we have to rotate crops on a regular basis. Our property abuts 8076 Longwoods Road. In essence, by going through with this rezoning, you would be prohibiting us from using our land to grow our main crop, strawberries. There is no way that we could grow strawberries right next to a livestock and slaughterhouse operation, what with the abundance of noise, odour, animal waste, and flies. (In case you didn't read it in my original letter, found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1b2p8UnLbHt7cr05sFbv4DUCVSnHrc64c-oOCAtQtT20>, this is an excellent piece showing just how big a problem flies can be, and how far they will spread: <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef506>)

Another issue that hasn't been discussed at all in any of the meetings is that the proposed zoning will allow for "dead animal transfer". With all the deadstock we've seen there already when animals aren't even allowed to be on the property, how much worse will the stench and flies be if they are storing and transferring dead animals as part of their operation? If it's allowed in the zoning, we have to assume it will happen at some point.

Yet another issue, which is mentioned in the Official Plan, but seemingly hasn't been looked at by staff, is the protection of groundwater. Abattoirs require extensive systems to contain waste and protect groundwater. This is truly important on this property, because all of us in the surrounding area are on wells, counting on the groundwater for our drinking water. And forgive us for being skeptical about all the rules and regulations being strictly adhered to, but Mr. Abualhayja demonstrates on a continual basis that he has absolutely zero regard for the law.

Is this what council wants their legacy to be? To supplant a long-standing pillar of the community with a bastion of filth and death? Farming is becoming more difficult by the day, with rising costs (of everything but food), new foreign pests that devastate crops and have no predators, and everything else we have to deal with. One more slap in the face, from a council that is SUPPOSED to be protecting our interests no less, could be the straw that broke the camel's back. Is that what you want to be remembered for?

Council, when you make your decision, do what we've been hearing you say for the last few months. Protect agriculture! Protect farmers who care for and improve the land, provide nutritious food for all, and provide jobs to our community. If you actually listened to the local community, you would know who does and does not do these things.

Sincerely,

The Millars  
Millar Berry Farms