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February 28, 2024

Her Worship Andrea Matrosovs
Mayor, Town of the Blue Mountains
amatrosovs@thebluemountains.ca

Dear Mayor Matrosovs,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the proposed TC Energy Pumped Storage Project in Meaford, ON.

As a member-based association with a guiding principle of being the voice of local governments across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin, the Cities Initiative is not able to comment on this proposed project as it has not been brought up for consideration by our membership.

Our policy positions as an organization are guided by member-sponsored resolutions presented during our annual member meeting. In this instance, however, a resolution put forward on this subject would be difficult to present to our members since, per our by-laws, “[d]isputes between or among local governments are not considered appropriate for resolutions” (art. 12.11.A.1).

That is why historically, the Cities Initiative has not taken positions for, or against, controversial projects in our region, but rather has adopted resolutions that provide guidance to actors to ensure that our environment and water resources are protected.

The Cities Initiative bases its work on advancing the environmental, economic and social health of communities across the basin. Occasionally, it is a difficult balance to strike. We welcome dialogue with our members to support our mission and would be pleased to meet with, or convene, different actors in this matter to share concerns should the Town of the Blue Mountains, the Township of The Archipelago or Grey County find our organization a useful avenue.

We are always open to discussing how the Cities Initiative can help you and our member municipalities advocate for policies, programs and resources that will advance the sustainable development of our region, while protecting the resource that makes our region globally unique, our fresh water. Please contact Eamonn Horan-Lunney, Senior Director of Canadian Policy, at Eamonn.HL@GLSLCities.org, if we can be of further assistance on this matter or any matter of concern to the Town of The Blue Mountains and Grey County.

Finally, we thank you, Mayor, for hosting the Cities Initiative for its Ontario Regional Advisory Commission (ONRAC) in-person meeting on Thursday, March 28. We look forward to this pioneering event.

Sincerely,

Gino Moretti
Chair, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
Mayor, Saint-Anicet, QC