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January 7, 2015

Vance Blackmore, Warden
County of Middlesex
399 Ridout Street North
London, Ontario N6A 2P1

Re: Clean Water Program 2015

Dear Warden Blackmore:

My name is Hugh Fletcher, I live and farm in Middlesex County near Coldstream. I have been serving as Chair of the Clean Water Program (CWP) for 14 years. The CWP was created in 2001 with the help of funding from the OMAF Health Futures Program and a partnership of 6 municipalities. The Clean Water Program has filled a need in Middlesex County providing local technical assistance along with financial cost sharing for many different types of environmental projects. These projects are aimed at helping both farm and non-farm landowners.

Over the years Middlesex County has helped ensure the Clean Water Project continues to assist County landowners by providing financial support. The money has been successfully pooled with other municipal dollars and used to lever \$2,000,000 dollars from other financial sources such as RBC, London-Middlesex Community Foundation, Habitat Stewardship Program, Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program, the Great Lakes Renewal Foundation and TD Canada Trust. These dollars are turned around and offered to Middlesex landowners in the form of cost sharing to protect and improve our local soil and water resources.

Recently Middlesex has not contributed funding to the CWP which has made it difficult to continue to assist County residents cost sharing incentives and associated technical assistance. The CWP review committee joins me in hoping you will see the value your support brings to the program and residents of Middlesex County. We would appreciate it if you would reconsider funding allocations and again provide support for the program in the amount of \$30,000.

We would be happy to offer a presentation to County Council to provide additional information in support of our request.

Yours truly,

Hugh Fletcher
Clean Water program Chair