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Toronto Industry Network

March 29, 2022

EMAILED: exc@toronto.ca

The Executive Committee,
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Ms. Julie Amoroso

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of the Executive Committee:

Re: EX31.13 - Removal of Harbour Lead Line and Keating Rail Yard (Ward 14)

Because it was not consulted at all regarding the proposal to remove the Ports rail lead, the Toronto Industry Network (TIN) is respectfully writing to request that the Executive Committee defer any decision on this item and refer it to the newly formed Port working group headed by the Waterfront Secretariat. Starting next month, the group will be working through a number of issues including transportation that will hopefully strengthen the Port which performs an essential service for the City.

Pre-empting this matter from the working group agenda will send a very negative message to TIN and its member companies in the Port and also members of the group.

TIN was not consulted about the plan to remove the rail line leading to the Port, nor were some companies listed as consulted on P. 10 of the staff report including Lafarge, Logistec and St. Marys Cement. It is noted that most successful ports in the Great Lakes use rail as a way to improve their reach and competitiveness in order to grow their businesses. It also should be noted that rail transportation has a lower environmental footprint than vehicle transportation and sustainability and efficiency should be a consideration for a critical transit hub that includes all modes of transport.

Given the huge resurgence of marine traffic in the Great Lakes to avoid the congestion of ocean ports and to give better hinterland access, what is required by the City for the Port is the vision and foresight to make the Port a key regional transportation hub as is being done in so many other jurisdictions.

We thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Bart Kanter,
Chair – TIN Port Group