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75 INTERNATIONAL BLVD., UNIT 401 - TORONTO, ON M9W 6L9 - TELEPHONE: (416) 679-8887 - FAX: (416) 679-8882

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February 21, 2025

To: Mayor Olivia Chow and General Government Committee  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
M5H 2N2

Re: Proposed Five-year Ban on Duron Ontario Ltd.

Dear Mayor and Committee Members,

As Business Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario (PBCTCO), I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed five-year ban on Duron Ontario Ltd. (Duron), a contractor signatory to the Labourers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Local 506 which represents over 9,000 construction workers in and around the City of Toronto. The proposed ban would prevent Duron from bidding on or obtaining public works contracts with the City of Toronto.

This letter is not intended to condone or minimize the City's concerns with regards to Duron's billing practices. Rather, it is to urge the City to take a measured approach towards implementing consequences while recognizing the potential impact that an outright ban would have towards the hardworking tradespeople who are employed by the company.

Collectively, the PBCTCO represents 150,000 well-trained and highly-skilled construction craft workers including thousands of workers in Toronto. With our contractor partners, we invest towards the continual recruitment and growth of Ontario's skilled construction trades workforce. The total footprint of our collective initiatives accounts for over \$300 million worth of industry-funded, joint training centres across Ontario. An integral part of workforce development is to ensure plentiful job opportunities that support our communities. By eliminating Duron's ability to bid on City projects, the City of Toronto would be negatively impacting the livelihoods of workers who have been employed on numerous infrastructure projects throughout the City.

It is my understanding that Duron has co-operated with City officials since this matter was brought forth. The company has taken full responsibility and implemented internal changes to correct the legitimate concerns that were brought forward. Recognizing these steps taken thus far, the City has an opportunity to utilize different avenues to penalize and monitor Duron, moving forward. At a time when the cost of living is hitting middle-class Canadians the hardest, in addition to facing a looming threat of tariffs being imposed on Canadian goods destined for the United States, I would strongly urge the City of Toronto to take into account the hard-working, taxpaying construction employees whose livelihoods would be severely impacted by an outright ban on Duron.

On behalf of Ontario's building and construction industry, we appreciate your time and consideration and are available to discuss this matter in further detail, as necessary.

Best Regards,

Marc Arsenault, Business Manager  
Provincial Building and Construction Trades Council of Ontario