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**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Councillor Marty Beelen

**Date:** September 22, 2025

**Subject:** Report #COU-001-2025 – Opposing Use of Agricultural Lands for National Defence’s A-OTHR Receive Site

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## Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receive report COU-001-2025 (Opposing Use of Agricultural Lands for National Defence’s A-OTHR Receive Site) dated September 22, 2025; and,

- 1) That Council, in recognizing the importance of national defence and supporting Canada’s efforts to keep pace with new and emerging threats such as hypersonic weapons and advanced cruise missiles, respectfully opposes the use of valuable agricultural land in Clearview Township for the use of a Receive Site for National Defence’s Arctic Over-The-Horizon (A-OTHR) project; and,
- 2) That Council direct staff to send a letter outlining the above to The Honourable David J. McGuinty, Minister of National Defence, with copies to The Honourable Heath MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food; The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Simcoe-Grey MP Terry Dowdall; Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, Township of Essa, Township of Springwater and the Town of Wasaga Beach.

## Background

The Department of National Defence has purchased just over 700 acres of valuable farmland, located at 2225 15/16 Sideroad, to use for their A-OTH Radar System Receive Site 0.5. The Department is also trying to purchase additional land to use as an R1 and R2 which could use up to 4000 acres of valuable farmland.

This is contingent on the sites passing the environmental impact study. The lands in question border and are part of the Minesing swamp, an important wet land for migratory birds, birds, fish and other wildlife.

## Comments and Analysis

Clearview is an agricultural community with agriculture and Agri-related businesses being the Township’s number one economic activity. Agriculture is a vital part of our culture and heritage. Valuable farmland in Ontario is already being used for roads,

housing and development. We do not need to use more valuable farmland for this DND project. Other lands such as crown land, less valuable farmland, abandoned sites such as the Pickering airport, or county Forests should be considered instead.

The Department of National Defence needs to continue its search for appropriate sites rather than using such valuable farmland.

### **Clearview's Strategic Plan**

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Communication
- Climate
- Core-Business (Agriculture)
- Infrastructure

### **Financial Implications**

Clearview Township will lose some of its tax base, economic activity and will have more Department of National Defense using its roads.

### **Report Appendices**

[Appendix A – DND Notice for Transit & Receive Sites](#)

### **Approvals**

**Submitted by:** Councillor Marty Beelen, Ward 5