

Since 1845

**HAMILTON**
Chamber of Commerce
Creating Business Opportunities

January 16, 2007

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

Please accept the following letter as a recommendation from the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, that the City of Hamilton continue with their claim for restitution from the Federal government for additional costs incurred by the City over the forced delay of the Red Hill Valley Parkway project.

While we understand that your new administration would like to heal old wounds and start on a fresh note, we feel that the cost of this “clean slate” approach might be too high for taxpayers in Hamilton.

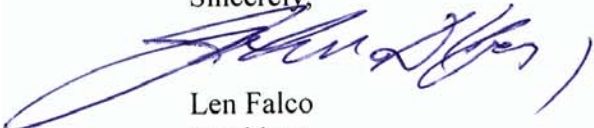
The recent Hamilton Spectator editorial by Robert Howard (*Tory cash deal best for city* – January 15, 2007) encouraging the City to seek a deal with the new Conservative government, offered interesting insight into an opportunity to resolve this issue, without continuing to pursue legal action.

We call on you and your council to answer Robert Howard’s question and, “explain to taxpayers how the city can afford to walk away from a multimillion-dollar legal action that city staff say has a likelihood of succeeding. Two courts have ruled already that Ottawa abused its authority in ordering the assessment.”

The Red Hill issue has been around for 50 years. A few more months to ensure that Hamilton businesses and citizens do not absorb the cost of the Federal government’s interference in local issues would not be unwarranted.

Let’s return to the bargaining table and solve this before our great grandkids can drive.

Sincerely,



Len Falco
President
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Cc: Hamilton Council, area MPs & MPPs