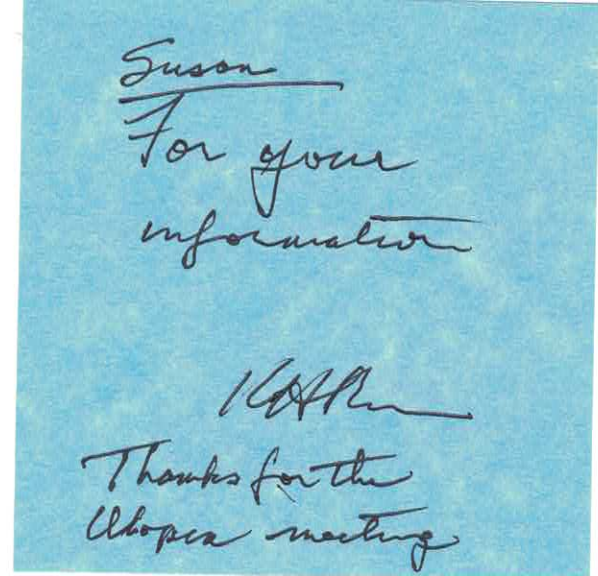


60 Marshall St,
Barrie, Ontario, L4N 3S7,
October 12, 2017.

Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Queens Park, Toronto
L7A 1A2

Subject: Ontario Tree Seed Plant, Angus.



I attended a meeting last night in Utopia concerning the closure of the seed plant. It is understood that the plant is oversized for today's needs. It was explained that seed handling capacity exists in the private sector. This capacity is apparently in the north. These northern seed plants deal with two or three conifer species and lack the experience with the wide variety of southern shrubs and tree species. It was clear that the southern seed requirements need more consideration than was given in the decision process that we were presented with. There were negative references made to the present facility that had nothing to do with the seed plant such as no seed being available for certain zones and the continuous reference to its costs with no consideration to its other values.

The very disturbing aspect of the meeting was that this decision to close the plant was made internally without any public consultation. The presenter gave no alternative considerations for the public to consider, the decision appears to have been based on operating a plant designed for an earlier period. I believe that it is still an MNRF procedure to ask for public input in such matters. This was certainly the emphasis when Ken Armson set up the process for the revised provincial forest management licensing a few years ago. He made a particular point that should be part of the process.

The MNRF staff presentation was based on operating costs and market size. There was no consideration placed on the value of the seed staff in assisting growers in the use of seed to improve the value of stock being produced. Perhaps the staffing policy has been to reduce the plant capability to a seed mill and this previous skill set is no longer considered a resource value.

I believe the MNRF should reconsider its decision and undertake a process that includes the public and industry in its next review and that this review should consider a range of alternatives. This decision just adds to my growing frustration with the mediocre programs that the province undertakes for its southern forests, virtually unchanged for so many years, and is just a continuation of its increasing abdication of its responsibility to maintain the value of its forest lands, crown and private in the south.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Ken H. Reese".

Ken H. Reese.