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38th Parliament

JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P. - RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

Members Statement - WATER QUALITY

November 30.04

Mr John Yakabuski (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): I also rise today on the subject that my colleague from Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound was speaking about, and that is regulation 170/03.

They did have hearings in my riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. They heard about it in spades, the disastrous effects the full implementation of this regulation will have on rural Ontarians. People like Gunther Borck, Gerry Belisle, Roger Imhoff and Angela Burgess let them know what the consequences of this implementation would be.

This government has decided to postpone the implementation of that regulation. What we need to see are real, substantive changes to that regulation, if not a complete redoing of the whole shebang. It is disastrous for rural Ontario and will result in economic hardship like you've never seen.

When Justice O'Connor was given his mandate to come up with new water regulations for the province of Ontario, he was not constricted by financial concerns, but a government showing leadership must take that into consideration. We simply can't put regulations on rural people that they cannot afford without any regard to the hardship that will result for them.

There must be changes. The minister has to stop dithering and delaying, put her shoulder to the harness and get to work on this.