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February 11, 2015

Mayor Don Furniss and Members of Council  
Township of Muskoka Lakes  
Box 129  
1 Bailey Street  
Port Carling, ON  
POB 1J0

RE: Bala Falls proposed development by Swift River Energy Limited

Dear Members of Council:

The Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) represents over 2400 families within Muskoka and has a proud history of over 120 years of advocating for the responsible use, enjoyment and conservation of the unique Muskoka environment.

Over the past few years the MLA has been intently watching the debate over the proposed hydro-electric facility at Bala Falls. While we have not commented in the past, we feel our members wish us to take a stance regarding this precedent setting development.

On Thursday, February 5, 2015 the MLA held a Board of Directors meeting to discuss the proposed development and decide on a course of action. At that meeting the board unanimously passed a resolution regarding its position on the development.

The appropriate portion of the resolution is as follows:

***The Muskoka Lakes Association confirms its position that the Swift River Energy Limited (SREL) proposal to construct a hydroelectric facility at Bala Falls is an inappropriate and disruptive use for the businesses, residents, tourists and cottagers of Bala and the larger cottage area of Muskoka;***

***Further that the Muskoka Lakes Association notes the power potentially generated from this facility is not needed;***

***Therefore be it resolved that the Muskoka Lakes Association hereby confirms its opposition to the construction of the proposed Swift River hydroelectric facility at Bala and further that the Association's opposition to this project be communicated to its membership, interested stakeholders, such as the Wahta Mohawk community, Williams Treaty Nations, local cottager associations, local municipal governments, local media and the Ontario Minister of Energy and the Premier of the Province.***

The above resolution will be communicated to the membership of the MLA within the next few days.

Sincerely,



Michael Hart  
President



George Boddington  
Vice-Chair, Political & Land Use Committee

cc: District of Muskoka Councillors  
Chief Philip Franks, Wahta Mohawks  
Karry Sandy McKenzie, Williams Treaties First Nations  
Jack Tynan, Editor-in-Chief, Metroland Media  
Moon River Property Owners Association  
Muskoka West Cottagers Association  
Sandy Lockhart, Editor, What's Up Muskoka