

Att.#2

The Corporation of the  
**MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED**

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August 29, 2022

Hon. Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St W  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1W3

Re: Tornado Damage & Cleanup

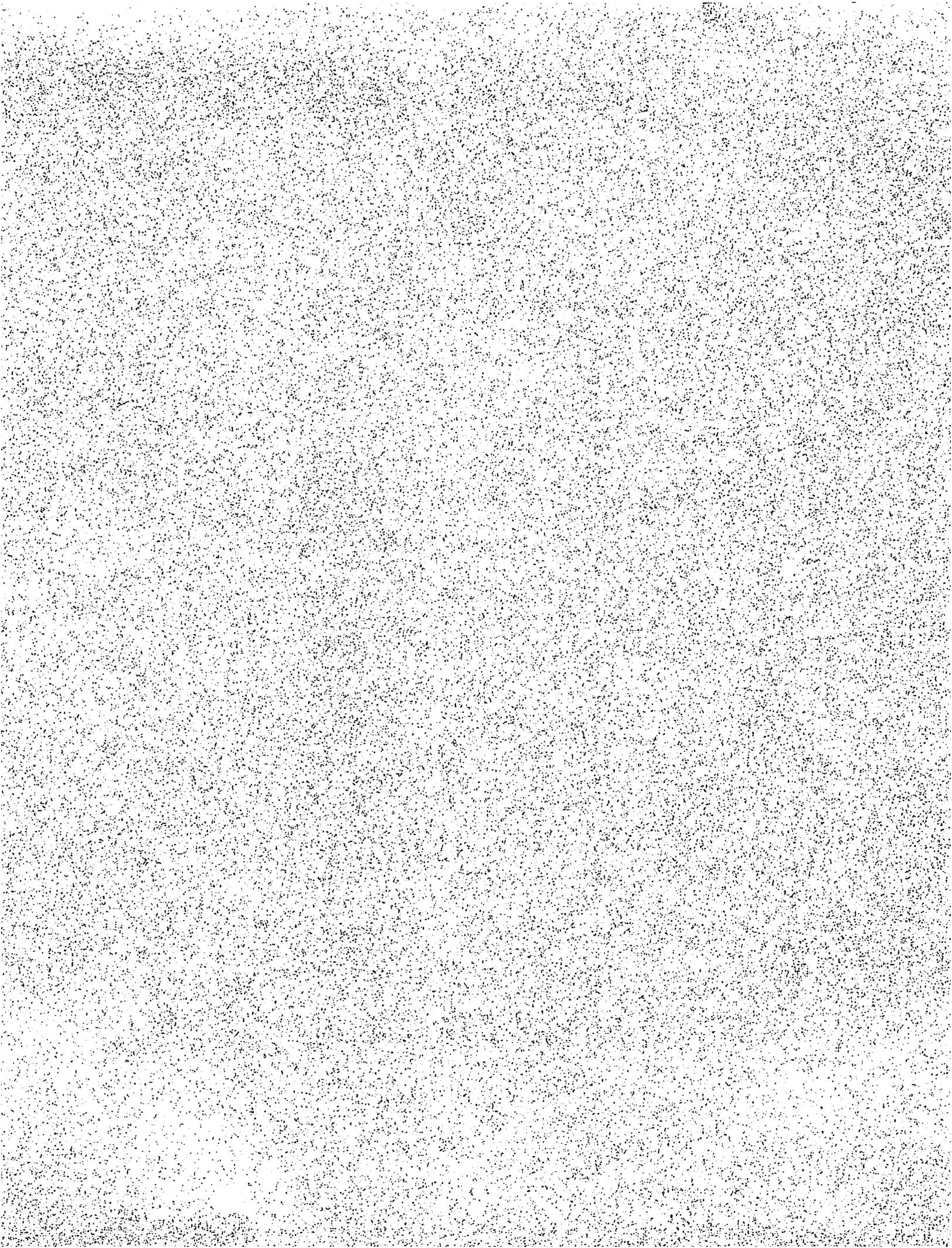
Dear Minister Smith,

We are reaching out to you today in relation to the devastation experienced from the EF2 tornado from July 24, 2022. The tornado was calculated by the Northern Tornadoes Project team to be 55.8 km in length with the maximum path width of 1,420 metres. Of this path, approximately 15 km was across the Municipality of Tweed along the Highway 7 corridor.

The tornado has flattened several acres of forested areas. Many of these trees are laying as a "blanket" across the countryside substantially increasing the fire load of these forests. If the forests are left in this state, an uncontrollable wildfire is a strong possibility.

In addition, several of the trees that were along waterways have been blown into the streams, mainly the Skootamatta River within the Municipality of Tweed. The brush debris and trees are starting to create natural dams. The water flows along the Skootamatta River regularly swell beyond the riverbanks during the spring freshet. Due to this cyclical and common occurrence, zoning and building restrictions were established to ensure adequate setback distances from these affected areas so that homes are not affected. However, with the natural dams that are being created by the additional brush in the rivers, the swell and extent of the spring freshet will extend further than it typically would, putting many roadways, homes, residents and livestock at risk.

Management of the forests and waterways cleanup from the tornado is more than the private residents and the local municipality can address on our own. Our resources, skills, and equipment access are limited. The Municipality of Tweed is reaching out to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and yourself as the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry for aid. Management of the extreme fire load concerns with the flattened forests and the spring freshet flooding expectations is in need of Ministry aid.



The Municipality of Tweed is requesting the Ministry to provide aide in the management of the downed forests from the path of the tornado before wildfires further devastate the countryside and potential flooding risks human life.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jo-Anne Albert