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**Jagmeet Singh, MPP**  
Bramalea-Gore-Malton

Hon. David Oraziatti  
Ministry of Government and Consumer Services  
6th Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Dear Minister Oraziatti,

As you know, far too many Ontarians are suffering needlessly as a result of serious issues with their newly built homes. These issues typically include Ontario Building Code violations, an unresponsive builder and an unresponsive warranty provider — Tarion. Ombudsmen from Daniel Hill in 1986 to Andre Marin today have criticized Tarion and the lack of response from your ministry.

My office has been copied on the countless number of stories from consumers of poorly built homes often with violations of the Ontario Building Code, delayed and improperly conducted home repairs, unjustly dismissed warranty claims, and unresponsive Tarion employees are just the tip of the iceberg.

There are good builders in Ontario, but as the industry Regulator, Tarion continues to license poor and marginal builders as well. There continues to be media reports about shoddy construction in Ontario.

Although Tarion has indicated they have made some improvements like doubling warranty coverage from \$150,000 to \$300,000; enhancing delayed closing protection; and establishing a Consumer Advisory Council, the reality is Ontario's new home buyers are saying these measures do not go far enough, and are taking far too long to implement. Often consumers conclude Tarion is protecting the builder's interests rather than consumers.

If the province is going to continue to force home buyers to buy warranty protection from Tarion, shouldn't it ensure consumers get value for their money?

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I tabled a private member's bill to remedy many of Tarion's transparency and accountability problems. Bill 60, the Tarion accountability and oversight act, would bring Tarion under the jurisdiction of both the Ontario ombudsman and the auditor general as well the public sector salary disclosure legislation.

The legislation would also force Tarion to disclose all of its detailed performance-related information concerning builders. Currently, Tarion provides a builder directory with admitted deficiencies. According to Tarion, the information in the builder directory provides "some insight into a builder's performance, but it does not represent a complete picture of their service record."

I understand from consumers that your office has indicated you will not support Bill 60. As a result, a few questions arise:

- 1) What specific objections to the bill do you have?
- 2) What are your solutions to Ontario's broken home warranty system?

In sum, reform is badly needed and both the NDP and PC's have committed to support Bill 60. This is about an important bill that the people of Ontario want, need, and deserve. I look forward to hearing your concerns and about discussing ways we can improve the bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jagmeet Singh".

MPP Jagmeet Singh  
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