



Voortman

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September 13, 2016

City of Hamilton
Attn: Mayor and Members of Council
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Attn: Mayor and Members of City Council

RE: September 6th City of Hamilton Planning Meeting and September 14th City of Hamilton Council Meeting

Mayor and Members of City Council,

My name is Harry Voortman and I am the founder of Voortman Cookies. I am also a landowner with approximately 50 acres in the Book Road West area. I write to you today in response to the outcome of the recent City of Hamilton Planning Committee meeting of September 6th, 2016. The decision to recommend this area be put into the Greenbelt is contrary to everything I have been told to date. I was made aware of the events that took place at that meeting where essentially my rights along with everyone in the Book Road West area were dismissed as unimportant. The Book Road West lands has many landowners that are made up of farmers and small businesses, who deserve to have a say on the fate of their land, especially with something so permanent as a Greenbelt designation. I urge Council at its meeting on September 14th, 2016 to reconsider this matter and remain in support of the previous Council decision of December 2015, whereby any boundary changes to the Greenbelt be deferred to the Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR).

On August 9th, 2016, a presentation was made which introduced the Book Road West Landowner's Group and outlined our interests. It was clear and fact based and pointed out the importance for the City of Hamilton to allow for the MCR to be completed first before any major decisions on land use be made. I urge all members of Council to reviewed the material presented on August 9th and stay the course on your original decisions of December 2015.

As a point of reference, the City staff report that was submitted for approval at the Planning Committee meeting of September 6th clearly stated and I quote *'Planning staff met with representatives of the Book Road West Landowners Group. The Book Road lands have been identified by the Province for inclusion in the Greenbelt Plan. These lands were not recommended for inclusion by the City of Hamilton.'* (Page 14 of 45 of Planning Committee Report 16-015 – September 6th, 2016. Again, it is very clear that the Book Road West land area was not a recommended choice for Greenbelt designation and again, highlights the importance of the MCR process.

In closing, making a decision that supports putting the Book Road West lands into the Greenbelt is a mistake. The City of Hamilton is at the cusp of undertaking an MCR. There is clear and repeated recommendations by staff and a clear public record from December 2015 that points to the importance of deferring any major decisions on land allocation to the completion of the MCR. Why is Council not taking this recommendation and allowing for the very process that dictates land use allocations provide the evidence and factual information required to make their decision?

Yours Sincerely,

Harry Voortman, Founder

Voortman Cookies