

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Stop MZOs and stop new sprawl proposals on farmland and natural areas outside of the urban boundary.

From: Kelly Ross

Sent: November 29, 2020 10:01 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: Fwd: Stop MZOs and stop new sprawl proposals on farmland and natural areas outside of the urban boundary.

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I hope you and your loved ones are well. Thank you for all your efforts over the past months to help get us through this terrible COVID-19 crisis.

I'm writing to you today with two specific requests:

- Please stop using MZOs and tell the Province you oppose the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act because both fast-track sprawl-style development, sidestep public consultation and override policies intended to protect Ontario's natural areas, water sources and farmland.
- Please stop any new sprawl proposals on farmland and natural areas outside of the urban boundary.

There has never been a greater need for bringing more farmland and natural areas under government protection in protected areas like the Greenbelt.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how important these spaces are to our well-being. We rely on natural areas for our mental and physical health, and farmland for the local food that keeps us healthy and our farmers employed. These lands are also critical to conserving biodiversity and enhancing community resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Some local governments in the GTA have ignored this reality and have tried to get permission to have protected Greenbelt land used for sprawl-style development. As well, an increasing number are relying on emergency-only Ministerial Zoning Orders to bypass important environmental protections and local planning rules. And just recently, the Province has proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act to remove powers to stop bad sprawl-style development. The backlash from the voting public to these changes has been fast and furious.

As a resident of this municipality, I am calling on Council to commit to stopping the misuse of MZOs, opposing changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, stopping sprawl and growing the Greenbelt as part of a Green and Just Recovery.

Yours sincerely,
Kelly Ross