

From: Elizabeth Seidl

Sent: March 23, 2021 7:09 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca; Paparella, Stephanie <Stephanie.Paparella@hamilton.ca>

Subject: GRIDS 2 / MCR Final Land Needs Assessment and Related Reports

To the Mayor & Councillors of the City of Hamilton,

As a resident of Hamilton, I am writing to you because I'm very concerned about the possible expansion of the urban boundary of Hamilton. I understand from the MCR/GRIDS2 report that the City of Hamilton is looking at expanding its urban boundary into prime agricultural lands. I was part of a small group of people to participate in the MCR/GRIDS2 consultation in January, only because it was brought to my attention by Environment Hamilton who explained what was going on and what it was all about.

During the consultation survey, I was disappointed to see that there was no option to freeze the urban boundary and that you were essentially forced to choose the least bad option in terms of expansion. I don't recall being given the option to 'opt out' of making a choice but I did leave comments that recommended the urban boundary **not** be expanded and the city should strongly consider various opportunities for infill within the existing boundary.

It also doesn't seem right that the consultation pool for the report was so small (our city has over 540,000 people in it) and this review relates to planning for the next 30 years. And with the pandemic shifting living and working patterns in ways that continue to unfold, who can even say that the data and criteria used to generate the target growth numbers are even valid anymore? Why are we rushing into this? Why are we doing this now, in the midst of a global pandemic? My position is that not nearly enough people were consulted on this very important decision, because internet access is not equitable across the city (my child is in remote school so I see the effects of this every day).

Environmental groups such as Environment Hamilton, 350 Hamilton, and others are bringing attention to the impact the urban expansion will have on transit, affordable housing, the environment, farming and vulnerable communities. Expanding the urban boundary will be a move against the actions the city should be taking in addressing the climate emergency that was declared two years ago now.

As your constituent, I am asking that you vote to FREEZE Hamilton's urban boundary. This action is essential if we have any hope of building a sustainable, climate-resilient, inclusive future for Hamilton!

Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Seidl