

**From:** mescanlon mescanlon

**Sent:** March 26, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Ward 1 Office <[ward1@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward1@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** I support a freeze on urban boundary expansions at this time

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of Council,

I wish to add my voice to those in this community who are opposed to any further deliberation over an urban boundary expansion at this time. It is anti-democratic to take such an important planning decision during a pandemic. I am disappointed that this Council is bolstering the efforts of the Provincial government to silence meaningful community engagement in planning matters.

I am also very concerned that there is no consideration of any option apart from boundary expansion. There seems to be little regard for food security in spite of the struggles this community has faced during the pandemic. I also object to the use of the term "white belt" to describe productive lands that could be used to support the local agricultural sector. The implication of "white belt" is that these lands are in need of a real purpose. This term would be better applied to underused lands already within the urban boundary which could be redeveloped sustainably.

Thirty years ago this municipality was recognized for excellence in planning for a sustainable future. The objectives of Vision 2020 included "support the local agricultural sector" and "protect valuable farmland". It is rather sad to see how far we have wandered from that Vision.

Thank you,

Mary Ellen Scanlon, Hamilton