

From: brenda ginn <>
Sent: March 24, 2021 10:13 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Act Now to Stop Climate-Destroying Sprawl in Hamilton
Importance: High

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and City Council Representatives:
Hamilton is currently pursuing expanding into the vulnerable and MASSIVELY important section of the Greenbelt that is Elfrida, in order to build more low-density housing.

I am writing to inform you directly that I am opposed. While we need more housing for current and future Hamiltonians, expansion is *not* the answer.

Hamilton's Chapter of 350.org writes:

"Stop the rush *at least* until in-person public consultation can take place. A motion calling for delay will be considered at the *Monday, March 29* meeting where the agenda includes a recommendation to dramatically expand the urban area onto foodlands to make way for more low-density housing.

The growth plans for the next THIRTY years are being determined now in the middle of the pandemic when appropriate public consultation and engagement is impossible.

Rural residents without adequate internet are excluded. Low-income residents who can't afford computers and/or internet access are excluded. Those uncomfortable with or unfamiliar with Zoom-type technology are excluded.

Low-density urban sprawl worsens the climate emergency in multiple ways.

It increases car dependency. It replaces rural carbon sinks with urban carbon sources. It replaces vegetated areas with pavement and buildings. It overuses land, making the city more spread out and increasing distances travelled. It is impossible to efficiently service with transit. It increases the urban heat island effect. It increases stormwater runoff and consequent flooding. It requires millions of dollars in new roads, pipes and other infrastructure that consume already very scarce city finances.

Of course it reduces food security by permanently eliminating more foodlands. Its car dependency excludes affordable housing and lower income residents thus further ghettoizing residents. It also degrades wildlife habitat and makes ecological restoration more difficult."

The answer is not in expansion but retooling. Many other cities around the world, like Singapore, have done this well and efficiently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Ginn