

From: Megan Sonke

Sent: March 24, 2021 8:40 PM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: To: Mayor Eisenberger and all Members of City Council Re: Hamilton's Urban Development Plan

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

I am writing to inform you directly that I am opposed to the action you are currently taking in pursuit of Hamilton's urban boundary expanding into the Greenbelt area in Elfrida. I understand the pressure you are under, to lead in this time of Covid, to consider the health and lives of your city's residents while considering its future residents. Of course we need more housing for current and future Hamiltonians, it is smart to solve that problem- and quickly! However, 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."

There are so many great examples of cities working towards a future that serves us all - Copenhagen, Stockholm, Singapore. The answer is NOT in expansion but in re-tooling.

You MUST act with those of us thinking of our futures, after all, it's your future too!

Sincerely,

Megan Sonke