

From: Joanna Sargent
Sent: March 24, 2021 1:55 PM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Urban Boundary Meeting March 29th

To: Mayor Eisenberger and all Members of City Council

I am writing to you to support the motion to delay the decision to expand Hamilton's urban boundary. Effective public consultation and engagement on the plans for Hamilton's next thirty years is not possible during the pandemic lockdowns. So many people are being excluded from opportunities to provide their views on these critical questions. That exclusion has been made much worse by the decision of your planning department to exclude a fixed urban boundary from the possible options on which it has tried to obtain comments. This appears to contradict the city's written commitments to public engagement. Please support the motion to delay this decision and pause planning till in person consultations and information sessions have occurred and add a fixed urban boundary to your planning options.

Further, the planning for growth must consider climate implications, food security and sustainability. Expansion of Hamilton's urban boundary will have only negative effects with regards to climate change. Further expansion of Hamilton's boundaries is completely incompatible with council's declaration of a climate emergency. I urge you to act effectively on your declaration to address this climate emergency and freeze the urban boundary immediately. This will also prevent further loss of farmland with ensuing risk to food security and encourage higher density neighbourhoods within existing boundaries.

Please think about the legacy you wish to leave. Do you want to be the council that ignored the looming problems for our community and the planet? Or do you want to be remembered for your leadership in facing issues and taking bold actions to tackle them? My family and I have been proud Hamiltonians for decades. We applauded your good judgement when you recognized & declared the climate emergency. Now you have an opportunity to further impress Hamiltonians with your courage and foresight to act to stem this crisis. My family and I don't just sleep in Hamilton – we work, study, shop, pay taxes and vote in Hamilton. This is the time to show the kind of leadership Hamiltonians deserve and expect from our elected representatives.

I urge you to freeze the urban boundary immediately and to pause urban boundary planning and extend the planning period till in person consultations have occurred.

Thank you.

Joanna Sargent