

From: Hart Jansson

Sent: March 14, 2021 4:15 PM

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Subject: [****POSSIBLE SPAM]Delay of Municipal Comprehensive Review

To: Hamilton Council – Mar 15, 2021

From: Hart Jansson on behalf of HACEN (Halton Action for Climate Emergency Now), a citizen's group advocating for rapid and effective action to lower carbon emissions in Halton and Ontario. We are addressing our neighbouring municipality of Hamilton in recognition of the fact that climate change knows no boundaries, and a united front among Ontario municipalities to defer critical decisions regarding long-term land use planning is necessary.

The changes to a number of Provincial Statutes and policies that impact how municipalities plan for growth could be of serious concern to many Hamilton residents, if they could understand their potential impact.

These changes include:

- The Provincial Policy Statement,
- A Place to Grow: The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe,
- The Development Charges Act,
- The Planning Act,
- The Environmental Assessment Act, and
- The Conservation Authorities Act;

Some of these changes are:

- reduced density targets in new greenfield development from 80 persons and jobs per hectare to 50 persons and jobs per hectare,
- reduced intensification targets from 60% beyond 2031 to 50%,
- setting minimum population and employment growth forecasts that can be exceeded subject to Provincial approval,
- extended the planning horizon from 2041 to the year 2051,
- introducing market demand as a consideration in determining the housing mix, and
- revisions to how municipalities fund growth

Potential Impacts

The impact of these changes is far-reaching and difficult to comprehend given their scope, their interactivity, the length of time they are in force and the timeframe of their long-term impact.

These and other changes signal an abrupt shift from the emphasis on creating compact and complete communities to a planning regime that facilitates lower density and car dependent communities.

Hamilton is among the dozens of Ontario municipalities and the over 500 Canadian jurisdictions that have declared climate change emergencies; Hamilton must consider the impact of land use planning in its strategy to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

The planning changes mentioned create pressure to convert more farmland in Hamilton to urban uses than necessary, which is contrary to Hamilton's Official Plan and its Strategic Plan.

Ensuring that Ontarians have access to healthy safe food in the future requires thoughtful consideration of the long-term impact of converting thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands in the Greater Golden Horseshoe to urban uses.

I suggest that you have a duty to consider that changing the official plans in the GTHA to accommodate these changes will lock in increasing carbon emissions and other environmental damage potentially for generations.

Justification for Delay

- the news cycle has been dominated by COVID-19 for the past year, therefore the profound changes to policies and statutes regarding municipal planning for growth have had little exposure in the media
- the magnitude, scope and long-term duration of impacts of these changes are much more significant than typical policy/legislative changes, therefore consultation is of utmost importance
- the changes are contrary to federal objectives and regional/municipal policies regarding growth and climate change
- the pandemic has not allowed and will not allow the usual means for in-person consultation and discussion, therefore the quality of consultation will suffer
- people who are technology-challenged may be left out
- people in rural areas who have limited or less than reliable internet access may be left out
- further time is needed for proper and thorough consultation with citizens, including education of citizens in this regard

Therefore, I ask you to support this Resolution to extend the period of the Municipal Comprehensive Review.