

Hamilton City Hall,
71 Main Street West,
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

August 2, 2021

From: Marie Covert

Attention: Members of the General Issues Committee

Subject: Reference to Item 8.1, GRIDS 2 & Municipal Comprehensive Review – Consultation Update & Evaluation Framework & Phasing Principles

Dear Mayor Eisenberger & Members of the General Issues Committee,

This is an unprecedented time in the history of Modern Man. We stand at the crossroads of a monumental decision concerning the Climate Emergency. We all recognize that climate events around the world have gone topsy-turvy with more than 600 forest fires raging in Canada, major flooding in China and Europe, and frosts and snow in South American countries. This is not a fluke; these disasters will not magically disappear. Humans have caused these disasters and only humans can begin to 'undo' the damage.

Previously, scientists predicted that we had until the year 2050 to make the required changes that would save humanity from death by fossil fuel use and green house gas emissions, i.e. global warming. With the recent flooding in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, Scientists have noted a 'time-table tilt' in their predictions. **Our new deadline date is 2030. We have less than 10 years to use every tool at our disposal to reduce fossil fuel use and mitigate green house gas emissions before we reach the point of no return.**

As members of the General Issues Committee who will make the critical decisions on how Hamilton will grow, you have an immense responsibility to make the right choices. You must determine that retaining the original urban boundary is the only decision. At this moment, your choice will label you in history as leader or follower. You must lead Hamiltonians with a clear choice of NO Boundary Expansion. Where you lead in Hamilton, other municipalities will follow. Halton has already acknowledged failure with irresponsible builders and we are on the cusp of losing Ancaster. You must lead Hamiltonians on the toughest journey we have ever known. With strength and wisdom you can make the right choices and leave a proud legacy for your children and grandchildren OR you can make the easy choice and lead us on a very uncomfortable journey of toxic air and unclean drinking water. Everyone is watching you and depending on you. Please use science and logic to make the decision that will shape our future forever.

Please review the chart below; you will agree wholeheartedly that there is only ONE choice.

Thank you for your time,
Marie Covert

“How Should Hamilton Grow” Evaluation Criteria

When you view every aspect of municipal governance through the lens of a Climate Emergency, the choice of NO Boundary Expansion is clear.

The world reached **417 in April**. This is the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, 417 parts per million (ppm). This level has not been this high in three million years and likely more than 20 million years. When the concentration is so high, our climate system is falling to pieces. It is incredibly hard to pull back from this number. Failure to do so will make the planet uninhabitable for our species.

Evaluation	Criterion	Rationale
✓	Growth Allocation	There are more than enough unused buildings or poorly used sites and parking lots within the urban boundary to house the expected population growth. No expansion is required.
✓	Municipal Finance	By drawing new people into Hamilton proper, the population will grow and so will local businesses. New companies will spring up to support a larger tax base.
✓	Infrastructure & Public Service Facilities	By using the existing infrastructure and services, new ones do not have to be built. This represents major cost savings if new water/sewers, etc. are not expanded into rural areas.
✓	Transportation Systems	Transportation systems already exist for major portions of Hamilton. Drivers will not have to commute to work and fossil fuel emissions can be cut dramatically, if people already live within the urban boundary.
✓	Complete Communities	As the old areas are razed, Urban Planners have the chance to build complete communities with parks, shopping, restaurants, everything at hand. Win! Win!
✓	Agricultural System	Farmlands remain intact, close to the City, Farmers' Markets and locally grown food is readily available. Food Insecurity is lessened.
✓	Natural Heritage and Water Resources	The remaining Natural Heritage and Water Resources can remain untouched, retaining the ability to offer protection against GHG emissions and soaring temperatures. Nature offers a buffer to the climate emergency and every ounce of protection is required as the situation will worsen.
✓	Conformity with Provincial Meth.	By re-using existing urban properties, by planning them properly and creating a vibrant downtown core to attract new home owners, Hamilton will meet the provincial guidelines and provide adequate housing.