

Reverend Daniela Mertz

Reverend Thomas Mertz, Dean of the Bay Ministry Area (ELCIC)

Reverend Loretta Jauzarins

Barbara Alken

Deborah Lindeman

Dear Mayor Eisenberger and Members of the General Issues Committee,

We are writing this letter in reference to Item 8.1 on the agenda: *'GRIDS 2 & Municipal Comprehensive Review – Consultation Update & Evaluation Framework & Phasing Principles'*.

We want to express my deep concern about Hamilton's plans to extend the urban boundaries. City council has declared that Hamilton is in a climate emergency, and we expect council to act and decide accordingly.

As the former Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Dianne Saxe, notes in an article posted to the Ontario Professional Planners Institute Website, "Contrary to popular belief, more of Ontario's climate pollution (greenhouse gases) comes from individuals than from heavy industry. And the largest single source of that pollution is petroleum fuels used for transportation, like gasoline and diesel. These fuels are Ontario's largest energy sources and the primary sources of its climate and air pollution." (<https://ontarioplanners.ca/blog/planning-exchange/february-en/why-urban-sprawl-is-ontario's-oil-sands>). Urban sprawl would further increase Ontarian's dependencies on car-based modes of transportation and thus create more air pollution as people live further away from their work and commute for longer distances. Urban Sprawl would create lower density areas that would not adequately support public transit options.

The Urban Sprawl would destroy needed farmland and wetlands, the environmental impacts of which would mean increases to the risk of floods and droughts.

Large parts of Hamilton's urban core are still underused and present an opportunity for densification that would revive the inner city and allow people to live closer to work and have access to public transportation.

Respectfully,

Daniela Mertz, Thomas Mertz, Loretta Jaunzarins, Barbara Alken, Deborah Lindeman