

From:

Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 11:43 AM

To: clerk@hamilton.ca

Subject: GRIDS2/MCR Plan for May 17th Statutory Public Meeting

Hello,

Would you please include this e-mail for the upcoming Statutory Public Meeting on May 17th regarding the GRIDS2/MCR Plan?

I lend my support to the initiative to say NO to Urban Boundary Expansion and to say NO to Urban Sprawl. The corollary of this is protection of farmland and development of climate resilient neighbourhoods in our City. I know Hamilton declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and is now working to put teeth into this proclamation to make it a reality.

With the climate disasters we have seen in Canada, particularly the intense flooding of farmland in the Winnipeg/Red River Valley area, we know that crops in that area will be planted late, if at all. The kind of crops will be determined by receding flood waters. This is Climate Change at its worst and it is in our back yard. This disaster has a direct affect on all Canadians as our immediate food sources are affected. The fact that we could turn unused farmland into flourishing fields of crops in our immediate vicinity is something we have to consider NOW. We can do this only if we protect existing areas.

Additionally, we know there are global shortages of vegetable oil, a product used by every Canadian for 100's of household uses. Our canola reserves are diminished which means we may face even more shortages at grocery stores and every retail outlet. This isn't happening in a far-off, distant land. Shortages of wheat have hit epic proportions on a global scale. This is happening right here in Hamilton, right now. We can counter these shortages if we make the right decisions now and have plans to develop new growing operations at our urban boundary . Hamilton is amazingly lucky that we have this option. Few cities have the opportunity to counter-act shortages and take action to feed their citizens. Please ensure at the vote tomorrow that you continue to FREEZE OUR URBAN BOUNDARY.

As you do this and recognize that affordable housing is desperately needed in Hamilton, please plan for small, green communities which will be able to withstand the vagaries of climate disaster. Please think about sustainable communities with parks and schools and grocery stores and walkable neighbourhoods. Only in this way will Hamiltonians find a way to survive and thrive through the next 30 years.

Thank you very much for your time. I know you will do the right thing for your citizens.

Marie Covert