

Pilon, Janet

Subject: FREEZE THE URBAN BOUNDARY AND PROTECT OUR FARMLAND

From: Joelle Bolton-South

Sent: March 28, 2021 12:27 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <mayor@hamilton.ca>; clerk@hamilton.ca; Ward 1 Office <ward1@hamilton.ca>; Farr, Jason <Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca>; Nann, Nrinder <Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca>; Merulla, Sam <Sam.Merulla@hamilton.ca>; Collins, Chad <Chad.Collins@hamilton.ca>; Jackson, Tom <Tom.Jackson@hamilton.ca>; Pauls, Esther <Esther.Pauls@hamilton.ca>; Ward 8 Office <ward8@hamilton.ca>; Clark, Brad <Brad.Clark@hamilton.ca>; Pearson, Maria <Maria.Pearson@hamilton.ca>; Johnson, Brenda <Brenda.Johnson@hamilton.ca>; Ferguson, Lloyd <Lloyd.Ferguson@hamilton.ca>; VanderBeek, Arlene <Arlene.VanderBeek@hamilton.ca>; Whitehead, Terry <Terry.Whitehead@hamilton.ca>; Partridge, Judi <Judi.Partridge@hamilton.ca>

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To the city councillors who are going to be making this decision,

I implore you not to bend to the will of lobbyists who do not live in this city or have any care for the devastating effects that expanding the urban boundary into our farmlands will have. We as Southern Ontarians, as Hamiltonians, and as people who need to keep living on this planet, MUST make it a priority to protect our farmlands and prevent urban sprawl from taking over the greenbelt. Eating fresh locally grown foods is important not only for our health, but for the environment, as well as helping the local economy thrive. Houses built on the greenbelt, if it is rezoned, will not be affordable, and at a time when we need to invest in affordable housing more than ever, it would be a detrimental decision to make for the people of Hamilton and the surrounding area. To meet the needs of the housing market we should be creating affordable housing within the city in the spaces we already have. There are so many empty buildings and storefronts that would be a better use of rezoning for creating homes for those that need them, while having the added benefit of keeping commute times low, and decreasing the need to use a vehicle to get everywhere. Building upwards instead of outwards would be so much better for the city, the environment, and the people who live here. We would be able to reduce commute times, make use of public transportation and bike lanes for more eco-friendly ways to commute, as well as maintain access to fresh locally grown food, which helps not only the farmers but the people eating the food as well. Trying to push such new regulations through when we are already dealing with a global pandemic, and housing crisis due to the lack of affordable housing and heightened living costs is immoral, unconscientious, and just in general a poor decision. I am asking you, as a constituent of Ward 3 in Hamilton, as a voter, and as someone who would be directly impacted by the lack of affordable housing and access to locally grown food, to please vote "No" to expanding the urban sprawl. Please watch this short 4 minute video that breaks down even further the reasons why expanding the urban boundaries will be harmful, and vote for the people of Hamilton's best interests, instead of the interests of developers who do not live in or care about the detrimental impact it will have on Hamilton.

<https://youtu.be/WZQZOi2c8v4>

I have also included a longer video (15 minues) that breaks down why Urban sprawl is harmful, and how to counteract it.

<https://youtu.be/IFjD3NMv6Kw>

Please, make the best choice for Hamiltonians, not for developers who only care about profit in their pockets, instead of helping Hamiltonians live a more affordable life.

signed,
a very concerned citizen of Ward 3
Joelle Bolton-South