

**Pilon, Janet**

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**From:** Jessica Gale

**Sent:** March 28, 2021 5:50 PM

**To:** Ward 1 Office <[ward1@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward1@hamilton.ca)>

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

**Subject:**

Dear Councillor Wilson,

I am your constituent in Ward 1. I am writing to you again on the eve of the city's vote to approve the draft Land Needs Plans.

In light of the recent Provincial changes affecting urban planning methods I am writing to express my support for a pause to any boundary expansion planning until after proper in-person meetings and workshops are once again permitted after Covid. Citizens must be properly included in the decisions of how our city grows.

I support a move to set a firm urban boundary because in addition to being a homeowner in Ward 1, I am also a farmer, leasing land in Dundas. Myself and my co-farmers grow plants for seeds and medicinal herbs along with growing food, much of which we donated in 2020 in support of our community. Surrounding our city are unique agricultural and ecological communities rare in Canada. Not only do we host greenbelt and escarpment lands, but also prime, high quality agricultural lands that feed our citizens and the province.

Last March, when the pandemic began, my co-farmer and I turned to one another and said, "we have to grow more food, as much as we can" because at that time, we had no idea whether the typical mechanisms of our food system would continue to function. Being reliant on imports, in particular from the US, and foreign agricultural workers to help grow our food supply, we felt last year we could be uniquely vulnerable. We were lucky that things were not disrupted more than they were. However, the threat of long term food security for Canada's citizens is still very real and the very land that is best suited for growing is being used for sprawl.

I challenge you and all of your fellow Councilors to think when voting tomorrow whether you will wait for proper study and community input that could make Hamilton a city that supports food sovereignty or one that supports endless growth?

Sincerely,

Your constituent, a farmer, and a member of the National Farmers Union

Jessica Gale