

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Greenbelt Application for Book Road Lands

From: Carolanne Forster

Sent: June 14, 2023 6:45 PM

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Dear Councillor,

I watched the Planning Committee meeting yesterday for the current decision from Council on responding to the request for a 'discussion' to commence on development of the Book Road Greenbelt lands. Your motion to delay the beginning of discussion was the correct response.

The Book Road Lands are the largest proposed removal in the Province of Ontario! They also contain a number of small family owned farms currently in operation as well as significant woodlots, wetlands, headwaters and biodiversity.

Even the Ontario Environmental Registry itself, after receiving 11,207 comments through the registry and 18,040 comments by email, total 29,247 responses, determined that *"overall, there was strong support for continued greenbelt protection and broad opposition to any removals or redesignation of lands under the Greenbelt Plan."*

The City of Hamilton needs to lead the Province and continue that 'broad opposition'. With the largest parcel of lands to lose, and broad support from members of the public, other municipalities, environmental and agricultural groups, and Indigenous communities 'by way of a parallel process', the City must meet that challenge.

Hamilton has a good vision for planning the housing required by the province within its current urban boundary, good for affordable housing, good for a sustainable future.

Our task on this is to lead.

Carolanne Forster
Ward 12 Resident