

**From:** Aileen McMillan

**Sent:** July 3, 2023 12:43 PM

**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** RE: July 11 2023 Public Meeting of the Planning Committee - Amendment to Urban Hamilton Official Plan

As a citizen and resident of Hamilton, I would like to submit my very deep concerns about the growth and expansion of housing and warehousing into the recently abducted greenbelt lands through provincial MZO's.

We are now being told that the recent and ongoing air quality degradation throughout Ontario and indeed across Canada, the US and even Europe due to forest fire smoke may likely become the "norm". Northern Ontario forest fires have already exceeded the number of burns that occur in an entire season. And yet, here we sit today in the Hamilton area, looking to find ways to protect the existing farmlands, wetlands and forested areas from (NOT) affordable housing and industrial expansion. Climate Change and its threat to humans and nature is sitting firmly in our laps now, and yet these plans to exacerbate the problems are sitting before us with this upcoming meeting.

I question WHY do these expansions need to be done on valuable aerable lands and threatening or destroying wetlands and biodiversity?? We are desperately trying to plant more trees to improve air quality and provide habitat for nature, and yet there will be thousands of trees destroyed if these building expansions proceed.

Here are questions I would like to see answers for if/when these urban expansions proceed:

- Where, when and how are tree canopies going to be planted to "replace" the destroyed existing ones due to these planned expansions? It is a hugely expensive venture and who will absorb the cost? We desperately NEED more trees to be planted immediately upon any/all clear cuts in these areas.
- Since we will be building over farmland that grows our grains, vegetables, fruits, etc., how are we going to feed this huge influx of people when we will have less food available and the lost farmland is gone forever and can't be replaced?
- What is going to be done with the water treatment plant to make the existing plant capable of coping with the extreme increase in waste/sewer water from all this building – both housing and industrial? How is "sewer leakage" going to be prevented and not diverted into lakes and streams? There are already storm water "overflows" at the existing plant so covering up all this aerable land is going to exacerbate the problem beyond control.

This question has been on my mind with regard to the ALREADY huge amount of housing being built – you see new subdivisions going up across the entire city and how is all this additional waste water/sewage going to be treated?

- Cost of new infrastructure – it has been made clear by the Ontario Gov't a major amount of these costs will fall at the municipal gov't level, not at the hands of the developers who SHOULD be absorbing these costs from the massive profits they are making on our greenbelt lands. How are we fighting this atrocious decision?

- **How are we going to protect biodiversity and ecosystems?**

I have so many concerns and am devastated by the lack of government understanding and concern over our future in this world if we continue on this destructive path with nature. Money can't buy the air we breath or the water we drink. I quiver at the thoughts of the world future generations are going to have to try to live in. The results of what is happening today is right around the corner, not in the far distance.

Please put my name on the list of people who would like to receive "notification of the decision of City of Hamilton on the proposed Official plan Amendment.

Thank you  
Aileen McMillan