

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Greenbelt

**From:** Lois Corey

**Sent:** September 14, 2023 5:22 PM

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

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Hello,

Due to being ill, I am unable to attend tonight's meeting of the City Planning Committee at Ancaster Fairgrounds re. the recent provincial amendments to greenbelt lands.

In response to the request for "feedback on community priorities when engaging with the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator." I am submitting the following comments:

Council needs to continue to pressure the provincial government, that we, the people, refuse to consider withdrawing these lands from the greenbelt and insist that Bill 23 be rescinded. Although I realize they seem to have given themselves the power to overrule the previous municipal boundary position, we must not give in. In order that our municipal and provincial governments truly represent the people we must exert the strongest possible pressure to not give up our greenbelt.

This land does not belong to Doug Ford or his cronies, nor does it belong to City Councillors, it belongs to we, the people, who have made it very clear that we do not wish to sacrifice our greenbelt lands! I truly appreciate the stand that Hamilton Council took on opposing expansion of the urban boundary. I am now asking you to stay strong and continue in that stance, for our sake and the sake of future generations.

I do not need to reiterate all the reasons why Bill 23 is wrong, but wish to add my voice to all the others to say:

1. We need our **good arable farmland to STAY as farmland**. (Ancaster having particularly rich agricultural soil). As world population explodes, grocery prices soar, and the planet warms, we will need the ability to grow our own food close to home to lessen the need to for energy-wasting transportation and to ensure future food supply for our community.
2. Nature and green space **feeds not only our souls but the planet**. Monster homes do NOT. They only pad the pockets of the already rich. Now more than ever, we need the little green space we have left in Southern Ontario to help curtail the effects of climate warming. Forest are burning, why would we intentionally cut down more trees and denude our planet?!

3. The process by which these lands have been released is **corrupt**, if not criminal. If we do not take a strong stand, we are complicit in this corruption.

4. This legislation, due to withdrawal of development charges, will result in a **huge increase in our taxes**. This is immoral. Developers should pay the costs of developing lands, not the people.

5. Withdrawal of greenbelt **DOES NOT ADDRESS THE HOUSING CRISIS**, this is a ruse. We are seeing an exponential increase in homelessness and persons of all ages, mostly young and older or on disability, who cannot afford the escalating rental prices. There is a shortage of **AFFORDABLE** housing, this is the crisis, which can only be addressed through intensification within the existing urban boundaries by building more rental facilities.

I impore you to say no to Doug Ford and the provincial government, as our reprenatatives!

Best,  
Lois Corey