

To members of Hamilton City Council,

I am writing to oppose the expansion of Hamilton's urban boundaries, with a focus on the climate and other environmental impacts of boundary expansion. Please consider the following key points:

Urban expansion - risks and environmental impacts:

- Further **expansion will destroy more farmland**. At present, more than 300 acres of Ontario farmland are lost each day due to development, according to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. This comes at a time when we need to reduce our dependency on imported food and vulnerable supply chains. We know that climate change puts growing conditions and therefore food security at risk. The steady reduction of farmland exacerbates the problem.
- Further **urban boundary expansion eliminates more wetland and other natural heritage systems essential to support biodiversity, including species at risk**. The collapse of one species ripples out to affect many others. A lack of environmental stewardship will have a profound effect on future generations. Forested areas and wetlands prevent flooding, recharge ground water levels, sequester carbon and have a cooling effect.
- **Boundary expansion increases car dependency, increases carbon emissions** and makes public transportation more challenging. Car dependency also makes life more expensive. Building homes within the urban boundary reduces car dependency and supports the growth of public transportation.

Building within urban boundaries – positive environmental impacts:

- Building within the urban boundary will allow for a variety of home sizes and types, particularly more affordable homes.
- Building within the existing boundaries requires less expenditure on infrastructure such as sewers, water mains and streets and fewer new paved over areas.
- Building within the boundaries allows for a concentration of services, such as police, fire and medical services, making them more affordable and efficient.

For the above reasons to name but a few, I urge Council to resist the push for urban boundary expansion.

Sincerely,

Sonia E. Sanhueza  
Seniors for Climate Action Now  
Brant Hamilton Norfolk Niagara Chapter