



ACORN Hamilton

Written Delegation respecting Urban Boundary Expansion **June 25th 2025 - Planning Committee**

ACORN stands with our allies Environment Hamilton, Hamilton 350 and Stop Sprawl to demand the City of Hamilton vote NO to any urban boundary expansion. Hamilton needs family homes where we already have infrastructure and services, not unaffordable houses on farmland.

There are extreme concerns about food security and environmental impact especially that these concerns are growing with the advent of increasing weather catastrophes and rising heat temperatures in summers. While urban intensification and redevelopment can help preserve farmland, strategies are needed to balance the need for housing with the protection of agricultural land and one of the ways we can do this is by using existing building, building redevelopment in and around the urban area to actually utilize existing urban spaces for redevelopment of housing instead of using the GreenBelt and our farmlands. We can build up instead of out, which is a great way of minimizing the conversion of farmland to residential areas, which would be a great step toward preserving agricultural land for food production.

These are some of the many benefits we see when avoiding building in the GreenBelt and on farmland. Once farmland is converted to residential or other urban uses, it is rarely returned to agricultural production. The conversion of farmland can reduce local food production, potentially impacting food prices and availability. This would put added cost onto families. Farmland conversion can contribute to habitat loss and biodiversity decline.

ACORN urges Council to deny any development outside of Hamilton's urban boundary and focus on building affordable and sustainable housing within the city's existing residential communities.