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Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 12:21 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Planning Committee June 25/25 Written Delegation by Mary Love

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Written Delegation for
City of Hamilton
Planning Committee meeting,
June 25, 2025.
Submitted by Mary Love

Dear Planning Committee Members,

I always try to respond in favour of Hamilton City Council sticking by its determination to keep our fixed urban boundary whenever pressure to expand it arises. Pressure has come from the Province and from land speculators. In the case before the Planning Committee today, the pressure is coming from developers and builders who essentially want the City to annex the Whitechurch and Elfrida lands for their companies' economic benefit.

I insert here for your convenience a quick reminder of the quality of these lands, courtesy of Ma Google:

Both Whitechurch and RL (Elfrida) lands in Hamilton are considered to have prime agricultural soil. Specifically, the Whitechurch area is part of the city's whitebelt area, which includes prime agricultural land. The Elfrida area, also known as the UBE (Urban Boundary Expansion) area, is predominantly prime agricultural land as well, with approximately 1,154 hectares identified as such. The Elfrida lands are provincially recognized as being part of a prime agricultural area.

As I said, I feel as strongly as ever that we must keep the current urban boundary intact for the sake of our City's health, safety, and wellbeing, but it's exhausting having to revisit this issue so regularly in its different guises.

Dare I hope that the purpose of today's planning meeting (to be followed by a special city council meeting) is to declare once and for all that Hamilton insists on a fixed urban boundary? That Hamilton needs builders, but only ones who are up for the challenge of adding attractive density within the urban boundary? That others who wish to keep building a scaffold to species extinction can go elsewhere and try to continue yesterday's housing blueprints? That here in Hamilton we have done with these constant exhausting requests to expand the urban boundary, that now our City's planners are going to be able to concentrate on forward- thinking building ideas and on bringing them to life within a securely fixed urban boundary? I fervently hope that's what starts happening as of today!

I can understand that some local builders are genuinely worried about their businesses. It's a destabilizing time for sure, but if allowed to continue much longer, the climate, biodiversity, and housing crises will have negative long term consequences that could long outlast even those of Trump's disruptive behaviour.

Big houses in costly new subdivisions are no answer to any of these crises, i.e. turning points. Building as usual is stagnation, not a turning point beyond the crises towards a viable future for the land and all species who rely on its gifts. Creating density within the current urban boundary of Hamilton will be rewarding for those builders who embrace new ways of collaborative thinking and building for the next quarter century.

Expanding the urban boundary will make all three crises we face worse. It's only through attainable housing and a viable ecosystem complete with local food that communities have any hope of thriving into the next century. Building attractive density within the current urban boundary will provide good jobs, adequate housing, and social stability, rather than the inevitable unrest if shelter for all is withheld much longer. Crucially, a secure urban boundary for Hamilton, situated on land which Indigenous peoples have stewarded over millennia, will protect it for the future needs of everyone's descendants.

The children will need exactly the same gifts of Nature that rabbits, turtles, bats, and birds need: shelter in a safe, connected community; clean water and air; food that's close to hand, paw, or claw. Planning committee members, the time to ensure their future safety and wellbeing is now!

Thank you for reading my written delegation.

Sincerely,

Mary Love