

From: Lyn Folkes

Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 12:01 PM

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Subject: Planning Committee on UBE June 25, 2025

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Dear Mayor, Council and Clerk,

I am writing as a resident of Ward 8 to the Planning Committee for the June 25th decision on urban boundary expansion developments. We have no councillor to represent us currently and I have been told that I should write to Councillor Pauls but this is such an important issue that I feel the need to write to all of you. So here it is:

The AEGD proposed development, and really any project outside of our current urban boundary, is a bad idea for many reasons that you've already been made aware of multiple times by various citizens and citizen groups that advocate for better greener communities in Hamilton. Most of these concerns stem from harm that is happening to residents in our city due to the rapidly worsening global climate emergency -- flooding of our homes; Ontario wildfire smoke harming our air quality, excessive heat waves like the one we're experiencing now, etc. So there's acceptance that we need to take action to reduce climate risk and make |Hamilton a more climate resilient city so we can all live safely.

I'm very proud of the many green initiatives our city is taking to help in this matter but there is still much to be done and I blame the provincial government mainly for holding back Hamilton's progress on housing. I want to see our urban boundary remain frozen and housing density increase in our city instead of increasing urban sprawl which will only send our taxes skyrocketing. We can't afford that! I agree that we need to densify development within our existing urban boundary but even that development is not being progressively planned. We can do better to protect important natural heritage features that keep our air and water cleaner and our critical prime farmland intact too. We have to fight against the undemocratic provincial bullies who will ruin our city if we let them.

Natural heritage is being lost at an alarming rate and what's left is too affected by new adjacent sources of pollution to have the same benefit to our society as it once had. For five years now, I've been helping with research on breeding birds around the Hamilton Region both inside and outside of our urban boundaries and I've seen the decline in the natural areas we have left in our region. Keeping a strong healthy natural heritage system in our city is a key component to leading healthy and safe lives here -- we're talking about the basic necessities for human survival.

I've lived here all my life (outside of a university degree break) and so I've been around a long time, as have some of you councillors, and I'd really like to see a change in priorities when building new infrastructure in Hamilton -- put people before corporate profit. That will help to improve our city in the way we need to for our future.

I also want to add that my family was forced from our home in Ancaster when the airport expanded its runway the first time. I was trying to raise my first baby who was woken up to eight times per night because of courier planes from the Hamilton airport. Then during the day, pilot training flights kept us from desperately needed naps too. After my sister stayed over night, she said it sounded like we lived in a war zone being bombed! We lived 8 km from the runway. Please don't make anyone else suffer from excessive airplane noise - it was the only time in my life that I thought it would be easier to be dead. Sleep deprivation is an extremely serious matter! Airport noise causes severe physical and mental health outcomes.

I made the community aware of this at a BARC conference many years ago. Mayor Terry Cook gave us no support at all but the airport was given a 45-yr period to do as they pleased without any environmental assessments -- that's why EISs are SO IMPORTANT!!! We shouldn't build anything without them. Thousands of people suffered from airport expansions in the 1990s and we still haven't learned our lesson.

Sincerely Lyn Folkes