

CITY OF HAMILTON
MOTION

General Issues Committee Date: July 9, 2025

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. McMEEKIN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR .....

Protecting Hamilton’s Farmland

WHEREAS, Ontario Farmers produce the best tasting, most nutritious and safest to consume food in the world.
WHEREAS, in our confusing economic tariff challenged world, we need to acknowledge that food security and food sovereignty is a national security issue. (NOTE: Food Security is the ability of individuals to receive adequate nourishment while Food Sovereignty refers to the ability of a country to supply its own food needs.)
WHEREAS, MPP’s Bobbi Ann Brady and Mike Schreiner have jointly presented a Private Member Bill at the Ontario Legislature to protect Ontario farmlands through the establishment of an ‘Ontario Food Belt.’
WHEREAS, Ontario is losing 130 hectares (319 acres) of farmland every day and once this land is gone it is gone forever;
WHEREAS, the 319 acres of agricultural land lost every single day could produce: 24 million apples, 1.2 million bottles of quality Ontario VQA wines or 37 million strawberries;
WHEREAS, the Bill would make farmlands within a designated Food belt permanently protected from development;
WHEREAS, the Bill could improve land-use planning, improve soil health and encourage all farmland to be used in the production of food;
WHEREAS, the Agri- Food industry represents a \$50 BILLION contribution to Ontario’s Gross Domestic Product and employs almost 900,000 people;

WHEREAS, Hamilton citizens engaged in overwhelming numbers related to their opposition to urban boundary expansion with the particular focus on the saving of farmland;

WHEREAS, the failure to protect our farmlands will ultimately send 'shock waves' through the economy;

WHEREAS, the Bill is supported by the Ontario Farmland Trust, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Christian Farmers and the National Farmers Union;

WHEREAS, the Bill will encourage farmers to create succession plans and to reinvest in their farms;

WHEREAS, the legislation will help to prevent further land degradation by protecting farm and arable land for future Ontarians;

WHEREAS, the Bill would create a special task force of farmers, farm groups, agricultural experts, and land use planners to craft the Bill;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- (a) The City of Hamilton applauds the efforts of MPP Bobbi Ann Brady and Mike Schreiner to protect Ontario Foodland;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton gives its support to the Bill's intent for the Province of Ontario, to create an agricultural working group to more fully outline the contours of an Ontario Food belt;
- (c) That the City of Hamilton request, through our representative at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), that AMO support this Bill; and,
- (d) That the City of Hamilton offer support and encouragement to the Ontario Farmland Trust, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Christian Farmers, and the National Union of Farmers in their efforts to support the creation of an Ontario Food belt.