

From: brenda hogg

Date: October 21, 2020 at 11:25:02 AM EDT

To: "Emmerson, Wayne" <Wayne.Emmerson@york.ca>

Cc: Steve Clark <steve.clark@pc.ola.org>, Daisy Wai <daisy.wai@pc.ola.org>, Michael Parsa <michael.parsa@pc.ola.org>, "Macgregor, Bruce" <Bruce.Macgregor@york.ca>, "Bigioni, Lina" <Lina.Bigioni@york.ca>

Subject: The Greenbelt is Permanent Re: York Region Council mtg October 22/20

Dear Chair Emmerson and Members of York Region Council:

Again, York Region's politicians are asking the Province for the tools to open up the Greenbelt for Private development. This time the stated need is Employment. Last year it was Affordable Housing. But York Region knows, and the Province has confirmed, that the 'Greenbelt' is permanently protected environmental lands for Public use.

Please read the legislation on the Province's website: Ontario.ca.Greenbelt Plan

"The Greenbelt is a broad band of **permanently protected land** which:

- protects against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and supports **agriculture** as the predominant land use
- gives **permanent protection** to the natural heritage and **water resource systems** that sustain ecological and human health and that form the environmental framework around which major urbanization in south-central Ontario will be organized
- provides for a diverse range of economic and social activities associated with **rural communities**, agriculture, tourism, recreation and resource uses
- builds resilience to and **mitigates climate change**"

So there are 4 legislated reasons to permanently protect these lands for Public use and only one reason to open them up: greed.

There is no need for 'Employment Lands' on the Greenbelt. That fact was evident at the Regional Committee of the Whole meeting of October 15 when several municipalities across York Region were trying to convert employment lands to mixed use residential.

I have seen no staff recommendations to financially save or rescue our rural municipalities in particular, King Township and Whitchurch-Stouffville by opening the Greenbelt. The push to urbanization is a political decision made in consultation with developers and some private landowners. Not one politician in York Region was elected with the mandate to allow Private development of the Greenbelt or the Oak Ridges Moraine.

If allowed, this would be a major change in Provincial land use. The question has not been brought to the Public for consideration or debate and York Region is attempting to decide this Public matter during a pandemic.

I expect that you all know that on October 8th, MPP Mike Schreiner, Green Party, Guelph asked the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the legislature, "Will the Premier keep his promise to the

people of Ontario to maintain existing protections for all two million acres of the greenbelt, even if this resolution passes at York council tonight?”

Minister Clark’s response: “The Premier and I and our government have been very, very clear. We have indicated over and over again, quite frankly, when we’ve received resolutions and letters—the member is right: the resolution hasn’t been debated yet; I’m not in receipt of it. But we’ve made it very clear to people who have sent us resolutions about developing in the greenbelt that the answer is no...”

With such a definitive answer from the Province, I would respectfully ask that York Region Council members defer their motions (H.2.2 Potential for Employment Lands Along 400 Series Highways) pending a full Public debate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

(Original signed by)

Brenda Hogg, York Region Councillor (2000 - 2018)
Richmond Hill Councillor (1994 - 2018)

Cc. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Stephen Clark; MPP Daisy Wai; MPP Michael Parsa