

DEPUTATIONS IN WRITING

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

OCTOBER 8, 2020

Subject: Item H.2.2. Potential for Employment Lands Along 400 Series Highways Report – Submitted by 178 Individuals

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

Dear Mayors and Regional Councillors,

I am shocked that after all of this time York Regional Council is considering asking the province to remove farmland and natural areas from the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Area, and to extend build water and sewer pipes from Lake Ontario to facilitate sprawl in the Greenbelt.

As a result I am requesting that you vote against items 1 and 2 on your agenda.

Item 1. Council reiterate its request to the Province to develop a process allowing municipalities to access strategically located employment lands inside the Greenbelt Plan area, if deemed necessary through a Municipal Comprehensive Review.

A 2017 York Region report identified 2,588 ha of vacant employment lands available for development. As the annual uptake of employment land is 7 ha to 19 ha annually there is no shortage of employment lands for the next several decades.

As identified in the report, Planning for future employment land needs is changing. Today, more jobs are located in urban areas than ever before and locating employment lands within our towns and cities encourages more people to walk, take transit or cycle to work rather than drive, reducing gridlock, emissions and improving quality of life. In the City of Toronto the highest concentration of employment is in areas where people have easy access to transit and alternative ways of getting to work.

Climate change requires us to make planning decisions that reduce our dependence on automobile use. Integrating employment with transit and active transportation helps us build communities where we can work, live and play.

Item 2. Council reiterate its request to the Province to permit the extension of Great Lake based servicing as an option to service settlement areas within the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Plan areas.

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I respectfully request that Council vote not to make this request. Expanding Great Lake based water and sewer services undermines the permanent protection of the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt and facilitates costly sprawl into the countryside, it is also unnecessary. A 2016 York Region Housing Supply report indicated that the region had a 21 to 23 year supply of land designated for housing and further that 91% of ground- related units within registered, or draft, approved applications have been provided with servicing. During the MCR process the Region should look to complete developments within existing urban land before extending the water and sewage pipes to service new land for housing in existing farm and natural areas.

The Greenbelt, Oak Ridges Moraine and Growth Plans were put in place to limit urban expansion into the countryside, protect the ecological function of groundwater on the moraine and encourage complete compact communities. The Plans identify where development should not occur to direct growth to our existing urban areas. In York Region, our population growth rate is slowing, our households are getting smaller and our existing urban areas are not yet fully occupied or built out. There is more than enough land to build the housing we need to 2031 and it will last to 2041 if we build the smaller, more affordable housing units to support accessible, age-friendly communities. Major growth centres in York Region are moving forward with transit supportive development. I urge the Region to proceed with the MCR process by directing the majority of growth to the serviced urban growth centres with existing higher order transit rather than expanding the YDSS into the Greenbelt.

In 2000, Members of York Region Council fought the battle against the “big pipes” plan to encourage costly sprawl. At that time, we learned big pipes not only create huge debt for the Region but they facilitate sprawling growth that leads to gridlock. Twenty years ago we challenged sprawl, today we are also battling climate change. It is more important than ever to protect forests, farmland and groundwater sources for our future prosperity. Studies identified in the Environmental Commissioner’s 2019 report indicate a strong negative relationship between sprawling urban areas with per capita transport energy use. With the current provincial prioritization of housing over environmental concerns, like climate change, extending Great Lakes based servicing into the protected countryside may serve to increase climate related emissions from transportation.

I urge Council to support efficient growth by building up in our existing urban areas, utilize efficient sewer servicing and stop putting our farmland and natural areas at risk.

I urge Members of Council to vote no to both of these items.

The above formed letter was submitted by the following individuals:

Jo-Anne Wills	Samantha Malkin
Azi Razbani	Keara Johnson
Maria Bozzo	Nancy Duncan
Chris Ballard	Katja Van Den Eenden
Anna Agranat	Diane Vieira
Gavin Hawkins	Suzanne Mezzomo
Christine Tansley	Stuart & Elsie Watson
Kelvin Ho	Paul Procenko
Beverley Golden	Nicole Debeer
Tracy Howard	Karen Kostin
Ted Nasmith	Clare Magee
Marina Dykhtan	Ann Kaufmann
Cheryl Crosby	Anna & Ralph Caporiccio
Ernesta Rossi	Marianne Yake
Teresa Paz-Soldan	Nadine Antonio
Jamie Maynard	Jill Kelly
Teresa Madrid	Kimberlea Lupton
Jenna Ritch	David Kempton
Piera Bonventre	Elena B.
D.Houlden	Kais Saleh
Catherine Bonventre	Jen Kolody
Jean Anne Dilcock	Andjela Tatarovic
Wolf Saxler	Yulia Sourtaev
Dr. Andy and Ruth Patterson	Andrew Dolha
Geoff Smith	Rose Rayfield
Daniel Chabot	Maryssa Fletcher
Andrea Sayde	Maggie Lopes-Lo
Janet Jones	Julianne Triolo
Heather	Lynne Meredith
Nancy Phillips	Brian Ford
Shannon Champ	A. Haddad
Aliya D.	Lindsay Furan
Allan Briesmaster	Brandon Lem
Janet Jones	Petra Vollmerhausen
Thomas Posivy	Sumeet Tandon
Claire Barrey-Junop	Brigid McClinton
Yushuai Cai	Nina Hajdas
Chris Herriott	Siobhán Covington
Rossella Polera	Heather Sanham
Angela O'Neill	Vanessa McArthur



Michelle Clark	Marco Prosdocimo
Iain Scott	Nadin Ohannesyan
Liz Baybern	Anne Dalla Rosa
Karen Karanic	Edward Tait
Norma McClinton	Rena Sutton
Bob Henderson	Janice Berger
Lenore Black	Brad Abernethy
Adam Socha	Cecilia Silbernagel
James Ravencroft	Anne Kaufmann
Leslie Block	Donna Deneault
Paul Rose	Patricia Duke
Sue Walters	Ian Darling
Sheri Eby	N. Marter
Lesley Peressotti	Otto Wevers
Pat DiMambro	Vic Williams
Stehen Cockle	Catherine Flear
Linda Ewart	Mary Murphy
Andrew Hampton	Kyle Bowles
Alain Lai	Eleanor Shaw
Geoff Green	Heather Skoll
Silvia Kruzic	Julie Hunt
Heather Bracey	Christina Lewis
Karen Uthe and Robert Skrivanic	Barbara Peat
Salma Mahmud	Helen Stauffer
Maria De Oliveira	Mark Marmer
Jane Kirkpatrick	Christine Sadler
Lori Puzzolanti	Diane McCurdy
Ken Imrie	Angela Colangelo
Larry O'Donoghue	Anabela Tamburro
Marie-France Bled	M.W. Mumford
Sigrid White	Christine Illott
Alexandra Hatfield	Dylan Amar
Kathleen Wong	Henning Dekant
Lauren Sills	Alyse Raponi
Karen Nicholas	Margaret Bergshoeff
Desiree Schuell	Sandra Vertolli
Mark Harper	Elizabeth Lavictoire
B. Flynn	Tania Grantcharov
Jodi Abaza	Shirley Vien
Karen Strohm-Vitale	Clara Frascetti

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Mark Li	Garth Wright
Jan Sera	Kevin Shackleton
Ali Makooie	Donna Castledine
Carole & Dave Hamilton	Sharon Katz
O. Sills	Leslie Faire
Aaron Levenson	Anna Skorupsky
Kevin Reinhardt	David Toyne
Sarah Robertson-Barnes	Zev Chek
Tom and Bonnie Brazier	Anna H

* Regional Clerk's Office received additional submissions similar to the above where the full name of the individual was not shared.

