

June 29, 2022

Dear Mayors and Members of York Region Council,

**Re: 2022 York Region Official Plan Adoption**

Watching the live stream of the June 16th York Region Committee of the Whole does not give me confidence that the proposed plan is going to serve the current and future community of YR (i.e. residents and businesses) well over the next 30 years. Too often I heard regional council members advocating for the potential benefits for their own local municipality, not the region. Too often I heard comments, which were never denied, that amendments were being presented without even cursory professional planning assessments being conducted.

Consistent with submissions I have made throughout the MCR I urge you to not support expansion of urban lands into the Greenbelt and the Oak Ridges Moraine. Due to the ecological and social benefits currently provided by these lands, I strongly believe that removal of lands from the Oak Ridges Moraine and creation of “fingers” into the Greenbelt are decisions that will negatively impact the public and the environment. Trying to rationalize this as being appropriate cannot be limited to the potential benefits to a single local municipality. The rationale for establishing the GB and the ORMCP is for the benefit of Ontarians beyond YR includes fundamentals such as providing drinking water and land for growing our food.

In an earlier submission I said that no council member can satisfy their conscience on this issue by saying that it is up to the Province to make the decision and it is the Province who will be accountable for it; “the buck stops” at the Province but it started at Whitchurch-Stouffville and York Region Council. I want to add that anyone supporting it also needs to recognize that the ramifications of the request, if accepted by the Province, will not be limited to what is being proposed: precedence will be set.

Consistent with earlier deputation/submission I am very disappointed that York Region has been so meek in its response as to how to manage the growth assigned to York Region. Comments about how i) the consequences of the proposed low intensification rates such as the financial risk to the municipality, ii) the extra costs likely to be realized in the future by the population for various reasons including higher property taxes and inadequate public transit and iii) the disregard for the climate change impact have been ignored.

Respectfully,

Debbie Schaefer, King Township Councillor