
Subject: FW: Pause Official Plan Review

From: carol aziz [REDACTED]
Sent: April 27, 2021 8:34 PM
To: ZZG-COUNCIL <zzg-council@peelregion.ca>
Subject: Pause Official Plan Review

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RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

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To Peel Regional Clerk:

My name is Dr. Carol Aziz. I have lived in Peel for the last 17 years with my husband and [REDACTED] children, [REDACTED]. I am an environmental consultant and a member of For Our Kids MOBH. I also direct Climate Impact Fund, which supports local climate literacy initiatives. I am concerned about urban sprawl because it encourages citizens to live far from city centres and increases the time spent commuting and the associated transportation emissions. We are in a climate emergency and need to take every action to decrease emissions.

I am requesting that Peel Region pause their Official Plan Review (OPR) until the pandemic is resolved, at this week's meeting. The Agenda items related to this request are 5.1 (Peel 2041+ Work Plan and Timeline Update) and 5.2 (Land Needs Assessment and Intensification Analysis).

The region of Halton voted unanimously to pause their planning on Feb 17th, 2021 and we believe we must follow suit. Halton (April 21st) and Hamilton (March 29th) have also passed motions to put an OPTION on the table for a fixed urban boundary.

We must not lock in sprawl until 2051. "Land use planning is the key lever in locking in or locking out greenhouse emissions" according to Yuill Herbert, a leading energy consultant for over 60 Canadian municipalities.

Constituents cannot be properly consulted given COVID restrictions. Many residents are stressed, lacking the time or do not have internet access or the expertise to use Zoom software in order to delegate. Critical decisions which will impact Peel Region for the next 30 years should not be made now while in-person consultation is impossible and so many of us are overwhelmed.

For this action to be effective, Councils around the Golden Horseshoe will need to pass similar motions and as it started in Halton, we hope it can continue in Peel and beyond. We need to preserve our existing farmland. Already, 175 acres are lost per day in Ontario. Farmland is a diminishing non-renewable resource. The new 'market lens' prioritizes low density growth on farmland.

The best option for our region is to freeze the urban boundary and direct new development within existing built-up areas. Low density residential development is everywhere, while affordable medium density development is all but absent. Going from one extreme (single detached homes) to another (tall "luxury condos") is neither sustainable nor a desirable form for a healthy community. The costs to service this type of development is also an economic disaster. Our current infrastructure deficit will

only grow as we continue to build out into greenfields, building new roads and water infrastructure that taxpayers cannot support. As well, stormwater run-off from impermeable surfaces will only increase as the effects of climate change continue to grow. Transportation emissions from these developments will prevent us from reaching our climate targets. We have enough land within the current urban boundary to develop complete, self-sustaining communities for future growth until 2031 and should have the flexibility to plan for 2041 using the guiding principles of the Places to Grow Act.

Again, I am requesting that Peel Region pause their Official Plan Review until the pandemic is resolved so that we can have proper community consultation and hopefully avoid sprawl that will lock in emissions.

Sincerely,

Carol Aziz, Ph.D., P.Eng.

[REDACTED]

Mississauga, ON

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