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June 12, 2021

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

From: Ekroop Birring [REDACTED]

Sent: June 12, 2021 12:25 PM

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Subject: Pause Peel's Official Plan Review and Potential Destruction of Prime Farmlands

Dear Peel Region Planning and Growth Management Committee,

It has come to my attention that you have received recommendations from Hemson Consulting to expand Peel Region's urban boundaries by **destroying 4200 hectares of farmland** in the coming years.

I am writing this letter as a concerned Peel citizen to ask that you pause all works predicated on such plans and take a more democratic and community focused approach in deciding the future of Peel Region and its urban boundaries. **As it stands, Peel residents like myself are not getting any real say on the matter.** The current process is developer-dominated and is not climate friendly. All three municipalities within the Peel Region passed climate action plans over the past few years to demonstrate that they were going to take serious climate action and work on reducing their carbon emissions. Those plans all sound like lip service in the face of Peel Region's potential urban boundary expansion.

Urban sprawl has been an ongoing issue in Peel that poses risks to residents' health, ecosystem preservation and climate change mitigation. **As a young person of the Peel region, I am extremely concerned about my future.** My generation of youth will remain car-dependent if things continue as they are now. Urban sprawl is taking over this region, leading to traffic congestion, excess carbon emissions, and a lack of agricultural capacity. **Urban sprawl and urban boundary expansion are not what I want to see in my region.**

If the Peel Region is to meet the needs of a growing population in a sustainable way, then **we need to focus on urban intensification and urban density and utilize the existing infrastructure we already have.** We do not need to expand our urban boundaries to accommodate for Peel Region's growth - we need to make our current urban spaces denser and more diverse. We can work on improving our public transit systems and provide active transportation options. We cannot afford to grow outwards; **Peel Region needs to grow vertically to accommodate our sustainability and climate action goals.**

I ask that the Peel Region Planning and Growth Management Committee stop the proposed urban boundary expansion, and instead work with its citizens to identify and implement sustainable and smart growth plans for Peel Region.

Regards,

Ekroop Birring

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ _____