

April 5, 2022

To: Peel Region Planning and Growth Committee

It has come to our attention that Peel Region has been directed to expand its urban boundary by the Municipal Comprehensive Review of the province of Ontario. We ask that you accept a zero boundary expansion in order to protect the Greenbelt, Peel Plain and 10,000 acres of prime farmland. As citizens of the region, we are shocked that we have not been informed or consulted on this serious matter.

We remind you of the importance of the headwaters, the original source of water that replenishes Peel Region's drinking water. This asset will be substantially degraded by pavement, vehicle emissions, road salt and heavy extraction associated with completely unsustainable sprawling development, a method of land use that is completely outdated. Urban intensification makes sense, sprawl is from an outdated era for which we have seen much regret.

The Peel Plain (Whitebelt) is covered in fragile streams and tributaries that are important for those people and wildlife downstream. In an era where municipalities are declaring climate change emergencies, this expansion is contrary to the need for resilience to severe storm events and flooding, in other words, the Peel Plain also provides significant flood attenuation and needs to be protected if injury to life and property are to be avoided.

Applications for millions of square feet of warehousing to be situated on prime farmland is disastrous. Local food is a climate change mitigation strategy for which we are privileged to have such stunning resources. Do not destroy this, and create unmanageable threats to drinking water, let alone destruction of biodiversity.

If natural assets do not matter to this committee, a lesson in the extraordinary value associated with ecosystem services would be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gail Krantzberg, Professor, Masters of Engineering and Public Policy Program

Mr. Douglas Markoff, Executive Director (retired), The Riverwood Conservancy

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ \_\_\_\_\_