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April 12, 2022

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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From: sabeen [REDACTED] >

Sent: April 12, 2022 6:06 AM

To: Iannicca, Nando <nando.iannicca@peelregion.ca>; ZZG-COUNCIL <zzg-council@peelregion.ca>; mayorbrown@brampton.ca; doug.whillans@brampton.ca; Palleschi, Michael <michael.palleschi@brampton.ca>; cityclerksoffice@brampton.ca

Subject: Re: Urban Sprawl in Peel April 14th meeting

CAUTION: EXTERNAL MAIL. DO NOT CLICK ON LINKS OR OPEN ATTACHMENTS YOU DO NOT TRUST.

Dear Members of Regional Council,

My name is Sabeen Abbas and I have been a resident of Brampton for over 25 years. I grew up in Brampton and am now raising my children in this city. Urban sprawl is not an option in this era of climate change. We have to rethink the way things have always been done considering the current situation we are in with the climate crisis. Your actions speak louder than any words declaring a climate crisis. The Peel Region has farmland that can support local food production and paving over that limited farmland doesn't make sense when intensifying already paved over land is an option. Yes, we need affordable housing but the proposed homes that would be built over the farmlands are not going to be for those who need affordable housing in any case. I urge Council to do the responsible and right thing and engage in conversations with people who have considered the long term impacts of urban sprawl before locking my community into a path that we do not wish to go down.

I am deeply concerned about urban sprawl and strongly oppose the frequent attempts to expand the urban boundaries of the cities and towns in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. On Thursday April 7th 2022, The Planning and Growth Committee heard from over 25 delegates and received over 750 petitions and letters from residents in Peel and beyond. However, the Planning and Growth Committee had already decided to endorse the staff report without concern for the impact it would have on Peel Regions long-term financial and environmental sustainability. Residents' concerns, covering a wide range of ages, locations, housing types and workplaces, were ignored.

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RECOMMENDED _____
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I understand the need for affordable housing, but an Urban Boundary expansion provides anything but, building expensive houses, chipping away at our food base and destroying sensitive habitat. We need more gentle density and walkable communities where there are near places to buy food, visit friends and family and enjoy nature.

What we seem to be doing is continuing decades of costly sprawl, developing large swathes of residential land at the edge of our communities and turning food producing fields into isolated housing and warehouses with little to no service by public transit. Instead, we build highways to connect these places and bring even more traffic to the Region. Much of this is truck traffic, as more low employment distribution centres are built, serving short-term consumption patterns, not long-term regional prosperity.

I respectfully ask all members to see the broader picture in making decisions at the Council and Regional level. We are in a climate crisis. Destroying valuable arable land and bulldozing for aggregate for housing and highways will severely limit our opportunities to build viable, connected housing and employment in the future.

On April 14th do not submit the Region of Peel Draft Official Plan to Minister Clark. Please delay submitting the Official Plan until after June 2nd. Give the public more time to have their say, and for everyone to take sober second thought on the consequences of sprawl for the next 30 years.

Sincerely Yours,

Sabeen Abbas