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REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

April 11, 2022

Concerned Residents of Caledon
Sustainable Development Committee
ecoCaledon

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair, Region of Peel Council
10 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton, ON L6T 4B9

RE: Settlement Area Boundary Expansion

Dear Regional Chair Iannicca and Council Members,

On behalf of ecoCaledon and concerned Caledon residents, thank you for granting us the opportunity to share our thoughts regarding the proposed settlement area boundary expansion.

ecoCaledon is a local not-for-profit environmental organization championing climate action in the Town of Caledon (since 1995). Our goal is to EDUCATE Caledon residents on environmental issues, EMPOWER our community to take individual and collective action, ADVOCATE for better policy and bold climate initiatives, and PARTNER with others working on climate solutions.

We ask that you RECONSIDER the proposed expansion of the urban boundaries in Peel in order to protect 10,000+ acres of prime agricultural land and greenspace - both valuable carbon sinks, sequestering more carbon than they release. By freezing existing boundaries, Peel Region can both meet the provincial population targets and take meaningful action against climate change.

If you've been following headlines recently, the news is quite scary! Last week the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that the world is close to a point of no return unless greenhouse gas emissions fall even faster than countries have promised. The **CLIMATE CRISIS** won't wait! According to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, over the past two decades, Ontario has lost farmland at the rate of 175 acres a day. Prime agricultural land is a finite, non-renewable resource - once it has been developed, it **cannot** be reclaimed and new prime agricultural land **cannot** be created. We need to consider viable alternatives to provide needed housing and employment lands over the next 30 years.

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

Municipalities play a key role in addressing climate change. According to the *Resilient Caledon Climate Change Action Plan*, municipalities such as ours, have direct or indirect influence over half of Canada's emissions and are responsible for decisions around land use planning, new development, transportation and transit that are crucial to achieving zero emissions.

We understand that population growth is inevitable and necessary for our future economic prosperity. We hope that the Region of Peel will rise to the current challenges we face and find a way to accommodate the same number of residents and jobs within existing settlement area boundaries. Our focus should be on creating sustainable communities through gentle density and mixed-use communities that are Greenbelt friendly, farmer friendly, wildlife friendly and build climate resilience amongst residents.

We can achieve ZERO BOUNDARY EXPANSION by:

1. Adding new family homes to existing neighbourhoods.
2. Reopening the EXISTING designated greenfield area - including areas designated for single and semi-detached homes to INCREASE the planned density of those new homes.
3. Decrease the area of land required for industrial, warehouse, distribution centre developments by mandating land-efficient, multi-story typologies.

As Brampton, Caledon, Mississauga and Peel have all acknowledged through the municipal and regional council declarations of a climate emergency, every opportunity must be seized to make decisions that support sustainable development. When it comes to building a more sustainable future, we know that business as usual is not an option. Much work lies ahead to reach our goal of net-zero by 2050 - we need to be bold and innovative and we need to act quickly.

Caledon residents value clean air and water, protected wildlife and greenspace, local food, climate change action and a healthy future for all Ontarians. We must find better ways to accommodate Peel's growing population that is not at the expense of our planet.

We urge you to vote, "NO" to the proposal to expand the urban boundary with development of more than 10,000 acres of prime agricultural land - some of Canada's best. Let's find ways to welcome new residents into vibrant, walkable communities with enough people to support good public transit - keeping sustainability at the forefront of all that we do.

Let's not squander away Peel's last best chance at a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Sustainable Development Committee (of ecoCaledon)
info@ecoCaledon.org

Lucrezia Chiappetta, Caledon resident (17 years), Co-Chair ecoCaledon
William Snell, Caledon resident (15 years)
Stacie Roberts, Caledon resident (10 years)
Betty de Groot, Caledon resident (42 years), Co-secretary ecoCaledon
Giulia Mascarenhas, Caledon resident (24 years)
Silvana and Vittorio Iandoli, Caledon residents (14 years)
Cathy Pley, Caledon resident (17 years)
John MacRae Caledon resident (18 years) Co-Chair ecoCaledon
Donna Ferron, Caledon resident (34 years) Director ecoCaledon
Ashley Pacek, Caledon resident (17 years)
Niki Gallo, Caledon resident (37 yrs), Member of ecoCaledon
Carolyn Vallejo, Caledon resident (12 years) Director ecoCaledon
Juan Vallejo, Caledon resident (12 years)
Anna Marie Vrána, Caledon resident (32 years)
Ian Godwin, Caledon resident (32 years)
Debbe Crandall, Caledon resident (55 years)
Sarah Dolamore, Caledon resident (32 years)
Sheilagh Crandall, Caledon resident (55 years)
Marce Crandall Showell, Caledon resident (13 years)
Sarah Crandall Haney Caledon resident (55 years)
Jim Jones, Caledon resident (4 years)
Grant Hatton, Caledon resident (23 years)
Paula Oake, Caledon resident (27 years), Member of ecoCaledon
Stefania Iannizzi, Caledon resident (18 years)
Valerie Autieri, Caledon resident (22 years)
Lauren MacDonald, Caledon Resident (31 years)
Elizabeth Elysee-Collen
John Foulkes, Caledon resident
Annalee Weston, Caledon resident
Rebecca Weston, Caledon resident
Lina Palermo, Caledon resident (18 years)
Carm Autieri, Caledon resident (24 years)