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April 12, 2022

REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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Sent: April 12, 2022 4:06 PM

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Subject: Delay Signing Region of Peel Plan, This is OUR Region, not the Provinces

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

Dear Members of Regional Council,

My name is Shaun Sammut, I have lived in Brampton my entire life (42 years). I am a high school geography and world issues teacher with the DPCDSB and a father concerned about the future of our region. I teach about urban sprawl in our classes and would love to teach out youth about how our Region of Peel stood up to urban sprawl in our communities as opposed to continuing the long standing tradition of ploughing over Canada's most fertile soils so that we can build more unaffordable housing and poorly planned warehouses.

I am deeply concerned about urban sprawl and strongly oppose the 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 stating that the province did not give enough time to go through the appropriate and required consultative process on this long term plan. Municipalities and regions need to push back to these bullying tactics that affect us and our children for decades to come. The Ford government will not want the publicity during an election that forcing a plan would entail.

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,

Shaun Sammut, OCT