

**The following is the content of a series of form letters forwarded to the City of Oshawa and included in an Information Package as INFO-23-73.**

**The original submission included 42 individual emails and can be viewed online here:**

<https://pub-oshawa.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=11935>

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Clerks Oshawa,

**\*\*Request to Municipal Clerks: Please include this email as correspondence on your next committee or council agenda\*\***

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TO: Regional Chair Henry and Planning & Economic Development Committee Chair Chapman

CC: Durham Regional Councillors, Durham Ward/City Councillors, Durham Region Clerks, Envision Durham, and Chief Planner Bridgeman

RE: Pause the Envision Durham Official Plan Review

The Envision Durham Official Plan Review process must be paused to allow regional and municipal planning staff time to account for the new land that the Government of Ontario has added.

Including the new Greenbelt carve-outs, 14,000 acres of prime farmland and natural heritage areas are slated to be added to today's urban boundary. This is far more than needed and a total that will undermine the financial and environmental health of Durham residents.

Furthermore, newly elected councillors across Durham Region have not had an adequate opportunity to understand and consider the implications of so much new sprawl for their respective municipalities and the region as a whole.

A pause to the Envision Durham process is not only prudent, but several lower-tier municipal staff reports have also called for more time to review:

City of Pickering: "The Province recently removed the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve from the Greenbelt to enable imminent development of those lands. This is not reflected in the above-noted Envision Durham reports that have been circulated for comment. The Province's action creates tremendous uncertainty about growth allocations and settlement area boundary expansions for the City of Pickering. Accordingly, staff are of the opinion that it is premature to comment further on the Envision Durham reports at this time."

<https://corporate.pickering.ca/WebLink/0/edoc/247495/January%2023,%202023.pdf>

Municipality of Clarington: “A condensed commenting period for area municipalities for policy and mapping changes of this magnitude is challenging and does not provide sufficient time for staff to undertake the necessary review. This is particularly so in the current context of the recent Bill 23 amendments, the implications of which are drastic.” (<https://weblink.clarington.net/weblink/0/edoc/402409/PDS-005-23.pdf>)

I urge you to pause the Envision Durham Official Plan Review to allow time for a fulsome assessment and to truly understand the long-term consequences of designating this much new land for regional growth. A growing body of research and best practices inform sustainable development, demonstrating that compact development is in the best interest of residents, current and future. The proposed plan is flawed and will cost us all. I'm imploring you to not lock in a big mistake for Durham Region!