

**From:** Despina Melohe

**Subject:** May 17 Meeting: Do not vote for the ROP

Hello,

This vote is more than just about land use policy. It is actually a climate change policy. By choosing to use more land than is necessary for development, we are condemning the next generation to a bleak future. Why are we locking in a plan for 30 years? Why are you ignoring your staff's recommendations and voting for a plan created by developers?

The plan as it is now, is a travesty of democracy. It is a glorified land-grab. This whole process has been business as usual: insider baseball. What will you do when the climate impacts get so severe, that they cause the social fabric to unravel?

We need a Durham Region where people can get around without a personal automobile. We need to preserve and protect the Greenbelt. We need to preserve the DRAP not pave over it. We need more density and transit oriented neighbourhoods. We need to preserve the waterfront for everyone. The Provincial government and the Region are playing Russian roulette with our children's future. A vote for this plan is a vote for flooding, water quality degradation and biodiversity loss, not to mention higher taxes. We have no right to destroy our natural environment for the sake of developer profit.

We need to start acting responsibly. We shouldn't just be rubberstamping building projects. We need to create complete communities. All the condo complexes in Whitby are luxury condos. Where is the social housing? We don't need gentrification. Do we have the water & sewer infrastructure to support all these new developments downtown?

We need to go back to the drawing board and create a land use plan that serves the public, not developer interests. We need to look at what progress is being made in other jurisdictions. We need a vision that is creative, not just the same old pattern of sprawl development. The Region should consult with organizations such as The David Suzuki Foundation, 880 cities and Helle Sohlt of Gehl architects to analyze our current situation and come up with creative solutions:

<https://twentythirty.com/article/resilient-intelligent-and-sustainable-cities-must-be-equitable>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mk6moDImPFc>

Sincerely,

*Despina Melohe*  
*Whitby, ON*