
From: Dennis Sallans <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: January 5, 2024 1:25 PM
To: Clerks <Clerks@durham.ca>
Subject: Reconsider the Durham Region Official Plan land needs now!

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Clerk Clerk Clerk,

I am writing today to ask that you consider your residents and the financial burden that expanding Durham's urban boundaries by more than 9000 acres of land will have on us as taxpayers. I urge you to act now, before the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing approves the proposed Durham Region Official Plan (DROP).

We have more than enough land within our current urban boundaries to accommodate new people and new growth. We must use our finite land resources efficiently and avoid unsustainable and costly sprawl into greenfield areas.

Taxpayers are struggling with the rising costs of living. The 7.4% increase in Water and Sewage rates and the 7.5% budget guideline increase that Regional Council approved on December 20 have, in large part, been driven by land-use decisions of past Regional Councils. Adding 9000 acres beyond Durham's already bloated urban boundary will exacerbate the current affordability crisis by requiring additional property tax dollars to service these lands, which are not needed to accommodate growth to 2051.

I urge you to recommend that Regional Council follow up with the request that Councillor Nicholson made at the December 6 Works Committee meeting for staff to provide information about the servicing costs of infill/intensification versus greenfield development. Please also recommend that Regional Council reconsider last May's decision to expand our urban boundaries by more than 9000 acres before our region's flawed council-approved proposed Official Plan gets approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The cost of servicing existing sprawl is already too high. Durham taxpayers cannot afford to subsidize inefficient and unsustainable development patterns that do not result in "affordable housing."

Dennis Sallans

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Whitby, Ontario [Redacted]