

Good morning,

I'm writing to ask you to support a motion being made by Mayor Sean Collier at the March 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Regional Council (11.2: *Impacts of the release and development of Greenbelt lands*) asking that staff prepare a report on the release and development of the lands in the Greenbelt *before* any discussion of the DRAFT Regional Official Plan takes place.

<https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=f0e0ea09-7b77-4713-88d9-d2d66de11693&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=29&Tab=attachments>)

The Province's decision to open up 5000 acres of the Greenbelt in Durham Region cannot be sidelined as something that will be considered at a later date—as if developing these lands would have no impact on where and how (and at what cost) our Region grows.

The Province has incentivized development on the Greenbelt by mandating that planning and servicing (and all other work required to issue building permits) be completed by 2025. This means that, in order to make their land banking work to their benefit, developers will be pushing to develop the Greenbelt lands ahead of any growth within or near our urban boundaries. This further means that the Region will be burdened with providing water, sewer, transit, and roads, and other services to a much larger area—and there are significant ongoing costs associated with providing such Regional services to areas that were never planned for development.

For Whitby residents, this also means we will be burdened with the ongoing costs of Greenbelt development in Pickering, Ajax, and Clarington.

Taxpayers deserve to know what the Greenbelt removals will mean—to our growth plans, to our pocketbooks, to our transit system, to services provided by the Region, to our access to local food, to our Region's net-zero commitments, to our Region's climate resiliency, to the availability of affordable housing, and to Envision Durham's original vision to "create healthy and complete, sustainable communities within the region, shaping Durham into a great place to live, work, play, grow and invest."

<https://www.durham.ca/en/doing-business/envision-durham.aspx>

Regional Council must know what the release and development of the Greenbelt lands in the Region will mean to our Region before advancing an Official Plan that will irreparably impact the affordability and sustainability of our Region.

I urge you to support motion item 11.2. All facts must be on the table before decisions are made.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen ffolliott  
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Whitby, Ontario