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**DAVID HEENEY**

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Steve Clark,  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
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Dear Minister,

I have reviewed the proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan, the proposed redesignation of land under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and the proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation and must recommend that the Ministry not proceed with these initiatives.

Although I recognize the government's commitments to address the housing crisis by building 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years, the proposed initiatives are not an appropriate means to realize this goal. The proposal removes protected lands valued for their agricultural or environmental value in order to expand the sprawl that characterizes most of the surrounding lands. It puts in jeopardy the ecological services provided by these lands, and the food production capability of Ontario at a time when there are potentially serious risks to global food supply from geopolitical events and the climate crisis.

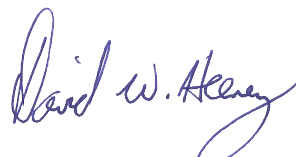
The area of the Greenbelt is not the maximum area of land required to be protected to preserve and enhance the environment and the agricultural environment, but if anything it is a minimum. Swapping these lands for other lands in the Paris Galt Moraine is not a scientifically sound way of enhancing the protections the Greenbelt was established to provide.

Further, the Ministry already consulted on adding Urban River Valleys and parts of the Paris Galt Moraine to the Greenbelt, and these received strong support through the public consultation. That suggests it is appropriate to *expand* the Greenbelt, not to remove lands from the designation.

The lands slated for removal from the Greenbelt are typically surrounded by single-family developments and are poorly served by public transit. The proposal to develop 50,000 homes on 7,500 acres suggests more of the same. This is not consistent with the Transit-Oriented Communities Program.

The Ministry should work to achieve More Homes Built Faster plan by intensifying development in existing developed areas, and particularly in areas well served by public transit, not by removing protections from natural heritage and countryside lands.

Sincerely yours,



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