



Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition

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Please be advised that this letter was prepared prior to Minister Clark's announcement on May 30, 2023. We will respond to the new proposals when they become available.

June 5, 2023

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Clark,

The Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition (MC²) is a rate payers' group that operates in the eastern municipalities of Dufferin County. We address issues identified by our members and work to keep the 13,000 residents of Mono and Mulmur fully informed about what is happening in our communities. We work closely with local Councils to highlight issues of concern and press for solutions that address these concerns.

Some of the most significant and ongoing issues facing our communities are a result of decisions made by your government over the last few years.

Bills, proposals and decisions such as Bill 109, Bill 23 and the amendments to the Greenbelt Plan and changes to the Conservation Act have resulted in the erosion of local control over growth and development within our communities and have gone a long way to eliminate protection of our land and water.

Bill 97 along with the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, the latest of the legislative amendments aimed at increasing housing supply, have the potential, if left unchanged, to do further harm to our communities and our ability to make decisions at the local level.

We are particularly concerned with the following five issues:

- The lack of consultation with municipal governments and the public.
 - The natural heritage policies that are not yet defined but there are indications that environmental considerations will be relaxed in favour of increasing the housing supply.
 - The Minister will be allowed to make regulations and orders related to planning that have been the purview of local municipalities and we will be prohibited from making policies that are more restrictive.
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- The amended rules for housing and development on rural lands are significant and will impede our ability to sustain our food system. The expansion of settlement areas into farmland (without a Municipal Comprehensive Review), allowing two additional residential units in addition to the principle residence in prime agricultural areas and the additional lots that can be severed will destroy the rural landscape and lead to urban sprawl.
 - Removing the concept of “healthy, livable and safe communities”, and planning authorities no longer having to consider “avoiding development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health concerns” and “promoting development patterns that conserve biodiversity” in the proposed Statement give credence to the concern that this government cares more for developers and development than for the ordinary people.

We understand and support the need for housing, especially low cost, but not at the expense of our lands, water and species.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition

CC:

The Honourable Doug Ford
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