

MUNICIPAL LEADERS *for the* GREENBELT

March 7, 2018

Premier Kathleen Wynne and Minister Bill Mauro
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

RE: Expanding the Greenbelt to Protect Water for Future Generations,
EBR 013-1661

Premier Wynne and Minister Mauro,

We are pleased the government has undertaken a study to consider the expansion of Ontario's most popular policy, the Greenbelt Plan. As Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt we support the expansion of Ontario's Greenbelt throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The current provincial study area identifies important water features at risk but the areas under consideration are missing some key areas. To be most effective the proposed Greenbelt expansions should encompass water features throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe, including the whitebelt.

Over the past 13 years, the Greenbelt has been an effective planning tool ensuring that between 2005 and 2014, no farmland within the Greenbelt was lost. However, just outside its protective boundaries over 7,500 hectares of farmland in the Greater Golden Horseshoe was lost to urbanization.

Maintaining the health of the watersheds that discharge into our Lakes will ensure the long-term health and vitality of our communities. If we are truly committed to sustainable development, it is crucial to revisit what to do with these 'lands between' during this Greenbelt expansion study consultation. An overlay of the recently completed natural heritage and agricultural system mapping with the water resources map on the protectourwaters.ca website shows that the province has the data needed to identify vulnerable areas at risk from urbanization in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Protecting these areas can be achieved while at the same time managing forecasted growth within identified urban boundaries.

Protecting vital water systems is urgent due to ongoing urbanization and the impacts of climate change related rainfall events. Unprotected headwater areas may be selected to accommodate more urban growth during upcoming municipal comprehensive review (MCR) processes. Building more hard surfaces in headwater areas could have risky and costly downstream impacts including accelerated erosion, flooding, water quality impacts, loss of prime farmland and at-risk species.

We have a responsibility to take action that supports a prosperous region. Protecting the health of our water systems and natural areas for future generations and building up our urban areas in the right places will ensure we have the resources needed for our growing communities. As Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt, we encourage you to be bold and expand the Greenbelt throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Respectfully Yours,

Co-Chairs, Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Parish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" written in a more compact, stylized manner.

Mayor Steve Parish, Town of Ajax

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Burton". The signature is very stylized and cursive, with the letters "R" and "B" being particularly prominent and large.

Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn De Baeremaeker". The signature is cursive and somewhat slanted, with the first name "Glenn" being clearly legible.

Deputy Mayor Glenn De Baeremaeker, City of Toronto

About the Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt

Municipal Leaders for the Greenbelt is a network of elected Mayors and Councillors from across the Greenbelt who support the Greenbelt as a permanent feature of Ontario's landscape.