

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

December 6, 2020

Dear Minister Clark,

It is with regret that I submit my resignation, effective immediately, as a Member of the Greenbelt Council.

Recent actions taken by the Government with respect to Schedule 6 of Bill 229 have confirmed that we differ fundamentally on policy directions affecting the Greenbelt. The Council has urged your Government to withdraw Schedule 6 from Bill 229 to allow for proper evaluation and public discourse. You have also disregarded the wishes of AMO, Big City Mayors and dozens of municipal councils by refusing to withdraw Schedule 6.

The Council has been providing you with advice on implementation of the Greenbelt and Growth plans, including illustrating the fundamental role that the conservation authorities play in protecting the Greenbelt and the health and wellbeing of the residents of Ontario. Clearly you do not value that advice and clearly your government does not value the role that conservation authorities play in public safety and environmental quality.

The Growth Plan area and the Greenbelt are linked – each supporting the other. The Greenbelt cannot be protected without the watershed view and efforts to ensure that the lands adjacent to it continue to support the features, functions, and linkages between the two.

I stand with David Crombie in his condemnation of the inclusion of an explicit requirement for conservation authorities to permit the alteration or destruction of features that are protected under *provincial policy, municipal policy* and *conservation authority regulations* in areas designated under a Ministers Zoning Order. No Walmart, warehouse, casino or housing development is worth the long-term environmental costs.

I believed that being ‘in the tent’ was valuable and that I could contribute to good public policy that makes Ontario great. However, it is now clear that the Government’s direction under Schedule 6 of Bill 229 is a blatant assault on conservation, the environment and transparent governance. My time and efforts will be better spent protecting the environment and the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,



Deborah Martin-Downs
Former Member, Greenbelt Council
Chief Administrative Officer, Credit Valley Conservation

C.C. The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister
Ed McDonnell, CEO, Greenbelt Foundation
Greenbelt Council Members
Greater Golden Horseshoe stakeholders