



4560 Sideline 22, R.R. #5, Claremont ON L1Y 1A2 / landoverlanding@gmail.com / 905-649-2433

Land Use Planning Review
Ministry of Municipal Affairs
Ontario Growth Secretariat
777 Bay Street, Suite 425 (4th floor)
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

October 21, 2016

Dear Minister Mauro,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to Ontario's land-use plans.

The mission of Land Over Landings is to see that the prime farmland and natural areas of the remaining Pickering Federal Lands receive protection in perpetuity for the long-term benefit of Canada's largest urban area. While it's true that the remaining lands are owned by the federal government, they also fall within the purview of the Province: close to half of the 9,000+ acres are already within the Greenbelt. We firmly believe that most of the rest, identical in character and quality, require the same designation.

This issue was very much in our minds as we reviewed the proposed changes to the plans. We profoundly thank David Crombie and his panel for making clear that climate change mitigation must now be the lens through which all planning and decision-making take place. And we thank the Province for proposed changes that reflect this thinking and continue to protect our vital Greenbelt.

We are very aware that pressures from developers and many municipalities are being brought to bear on the Government in response to this farsighted, principled stand. We urge you not to compromise those principles. Our clean water sources and the fields that feed us are finite in number and among our province's most valuable resources. No plan that would compromise water quality or reduce or destroy prime farmland could ever be seen as serving the public good. So stand firm on the Greenbelt, Minister Mauro. Present and future generations will thank you.

We sincerely hope that when the final plans are published, they will:

- provide a level of protection to the Class 1 farmland and natural habitat (currently zoned as whitebelt) of the remaining Pickering Federal Lands, by sheltering them within the Greenbelt;
- provide the highest protection to prime agricultural lands (classes 1-4); farmers need prime farmland, while the rest of us, if we want to eat, absolutely need them to have it.

- ensure the viability of the entire agricultural system; its success is essential to our future wellbeing;
- especially protect near-urban farmland, not least the farmland that generations of residents in Canada's largest urban centre will be relying on for food security in times of unprecedented population growth and accelerating climate change;
- prevent urban creep onto farmland and green space by retaining the settlement area/urban boundaries around all communities in the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

We thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Delaney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Mary Delaney
Chair, Land Over Landings

**No one is going to look back 50 years from now and say,
“we protected too much green space and farm land”.**

~ Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner for the City of Toronto, April 7, 2015