

To: Members of Council
From: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
Date: January 23, 2019
Re: Bill 66

Colleagues,

Regarding “Information Report – Bill 66 - An Act to restore Ontario’s competitiveness by amending or repealing certain Acts”, I will be recommending that we support recent resolutions made by both the Town of Oakville, and the Region of Halton, with a similar motion of our own:

WHEREAS, the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 66, an Act to restore Ontario’s competitiveness by amending or repealing certain Acts; and

WHEREAS, Schedule 10 of the proposed legislation would amend the Planning Act to allow municipalities to pass “open-for-business planning by-laws”; and

WHEREAS, the Bill would allow such by-laws to override important planning, water, agricultural and environmental protections contained in the Clean Water Act, 2006, the Greenbelt Act, 2005, the Places to Grow Act, 2005, and other provincial legislation; and

WHEREAS, no notice or public hearing is required prior to the passing of such a by-law nor are there any appeal rights thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbelt is an integral component of land use planning that complements the Growth Plan to encourage smart planning, the reduction of sprawl, protection of natural and hydrological features and agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, Burlington’s land mass is 50% rural, and the Greenbelt protects 1.8 million acres of farmland, local food supplies, the headwaters of our rivers and important forests and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, a permanent Greenbelt is an important part of the planning for sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, Burlington presently has 509 acres (206 hectares) of vacant employment land supply within the urban boundary ready to be used for business, without the need to weaken the protections provided by the Greenbelt or effectively remove land from it; and

WHEREAS, protections like those included in the Clean Water Act are critical to the health of Burlington residents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT Schedule 10 in Bill 66 does not represent how the City of Burlington and its residents want to do business; and

THAT the City of Burlington opposes provisions in Schedule 10 of Bill 66, that amend, repeal or override the Clean Water Act, 2006, and the Greenbelt Act, 2005 and calls for their removal from the Bill; and

THAT notwithstanding the future adoption of Bill 66, the City of Burlington will not exercise the powers granted to it in Schedule 10 or any successor sections or schedules to pass such planning by-laws where they are contrary to the town's Official Plan; and

THAT the approval of a Bill 66 by-law clearly requires that the integrity of the Greenbelt and source water protection be achieved; and

THAT this resolution be distributed to: the leaders of all parties represented in the Legislature; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; all Greater Golden Horseshoe municipalities, Halton MPPs, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.