

March 7, 2018

Greenbelt Expansion Letter

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ontario government's proposal to expand the existing Greenbelt to better protect our province's water resources with a "Bluebelt". As a supporter of the Food & Water First campaign, I endorse this plan. Food and water are the necessities of life. We are fortunate in southern Ontario to have rare, rain-fed agricultural soils and an abundance of fresh water. These vital resources must not be squandered, but protected in perpetuity.

It is estimated that the population of the Greater Golden Horseshoe region will grow almost 50% to 13.5 million people by 2041. Water will be critical for a healthy population and economy. We will need it to drink and to grow the food that will sustain us. Ontario's \$34-billion agri-food sector – the largest in Canada – will continue to rely on fresh water resources to produce fruit, vegetables, meat and dairy products. Our water must be protected from aggregate and mining operations that negatively impact aquifers and water tables. It must be protected from commercial bottling operations that pump millions of litres of Ontario's groundwater for profit. In addition, climate change is taking its toll on food-producing regions in other parts of the world, impacting the food we import. Ontario could become one of the world's food providers as other nations suffer through the extremes of global warming.

It is imperative that the government takes the necessary steps to ensure we have enough food and water for future food security and economic viability. Now is the time to strengthen and expand the Greenbelt with the Bluebelt so more of our agricultural lands and water resources are preserved for generations to come. Make this a legacy for Ontario.

Sincerely,

www.foodandwaterfirst.com
www.facebook.com/FoodAndWaterFirst
www.twitter.com/FoodWaterFirst

#FoodAndWaterFirst #ProtectOurWater #ProtectPrimeFarmland #IdleNoMore #Greenbelt
#Bluebelt #FarmersFeedCities #GrowTheGreenbelt