



. . . Memo

To: Members of Council

From: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Date: January 24, 2019

Re: Bill 66 Update and Revisions to Resolution

Colleagues,

Further to my memo of January 23rd, it has now been announced that the provincial government will no longer be proceeding with Schedule 10 of Bill 66. This decision is great news, and effectively removes the override that would permit municipalities to set aside a whole series of legislation including the Greenbelt Act and Clean Water Act.

This issue created a large amount of discussion throughout the province and highlights the need for our council to take a unified and formal position on protecting the Greenbelt and access to clean and safe drinking water. Therefore, I am bringing an amended resolution forward with the following underlined revisions:

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 have amended the Planning Act to allow municipalities to pass "open-for-business planning by-laws"; and

WHEREAS, the Bill would have allowed 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 would have been required prior to the passing of such a by-law nor were there to be 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;
and

WHEREAS the government has said it will now remove Section 10 from Bill 66; and

WHEREAS, nevertheless, Burlington City Council wishes to declare our commitment to protecting the Greenbelt, opposing urban boundary expansion, and protecting access to clean water;

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, the Greenbelt Act, 2005 and other important legislation in the public interest and applauds their removal from the Bill; and

THAT notwithstanding the announced changes to Bill 66, the City of Burlington will not exercise any powers granted to it in this or any future sections or schedules to pass such planning by-laws where they are contrary to the City'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, Environmental Defense, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation.