



March 28, 2022

Re: Continued Funding for the Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC)

Dear City Manager Commisso:

On behalf of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank the City of Burlington for its commitment to advancing the environmental well-being of our Bay Area Communities through its funding of the Bay Area Climate Change Council (BACCC).

As Interim CEO of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton's oldest institution at 176 years old, I have the privilege of speaking for our 1,000+ members that employ over 75,000 people in our community. The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is committed to advancing a net zero carbon future because the economic and social prosperity of our community is directly linked to our ability to preserve and sustain our ecological diversity. Moreover, without significant contributions to and investments in decarbonizing our local economies, we risk losing major nodes of employment and opportunities to establish made-in-Ontario solutions to our collective decarbonization challenge.

For this reason, I am writing to you today to request continued funding for BACCC, allowing the council to press forward with educating citizens and finding turnkey policy solutions for climate action.

Since its inception, BACCC has emerged as an organization that punches far above its weight, with meaningful contributions to the community as we transition to net zero emissions.

In the two short years since the Cities of Burlington and Hamilton have provided funding:

- BACCC has supported over \$1 million in local investment requests
- BACCC has led over 15 policy initiatives to help local government tackle climate change in Hamilton and Burlington, including a complete municipal retrofit program design, a green economic development strategy, and an optimized transportation network framework
- BACCC hosts an annual free event for residents to learn about climate action (completely 'sold out' in 2021 with over 600 registrants)
- BACCC works hard to match its stable municipal funding with additional sources to maximize its regional climate impact

- BACCC has employed 9 additional youth, on top of the 2 full-time staff that are municipally funded

Unfortunately, the City of Burlington's funding for BACCC expires this year and continued funding was not included in the approved 2022-3 Municipal Budget. Without municipal funding, BACCC cannot continue to support our community as we transition to a low carbon future.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce commends the City of Burlington for its contributions to BACCC thus far. Now is the time to reaffirm Burlington's commitment to climate action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie Nash".

Marie Nash
Interim CEO
Marie.nash@hamiltonchamber.ca

CC: Bianca Caramento, Manager, Bay Area Climate Change Council