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June 15, 2025

To: Mayor Marianne Meed Ward and Members of Burlington City Council

City of Burlington

426 Brant Street

Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6

Subject: Strong Support for the Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) to Protect Remaining Millcroft Greenspace

Dear Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council,

I am writing to express my full support for the City of Burlington's renewed request for a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) to protect the remaining greenspace of the Millcroft Golf Course lands, beyond Areas A to E. I deeply value the leadership Council has demonstrated in advocating for this irreplaceable community asset, and I encourage you to continue doing everything within your power to preserve these lands for the long-term well-being of our city.

The Millcroft greenspace is not just another parcel of land—it is a uniquely designed feature of Burlington's urban fabric. Woven like a figure-eight through a residential neighbourhood, it serves critical ecological and infrastructure roles including natural stormwater management, wildlife habitat, climate resilience, and community access to green space. These features make Millcroft fundamentally different from other golf courses and fully justify the special protection an MZO would provide.

I recognize that the Ontario Land Tribunal approved redevelopment for portions of Millcroft in June 2024, and I respect the City's approach to complying with that decision. However, I am especially encouraged that Council is not seeking to overturn that outcome, but rather taking a responsible and forward-thinking step to protect the balance of the lands that remain at risk.

This is a constructive, balanced approach that aligns with Burlington's Official Plan, climate goals, and community values.

With over **44,000 housing units** already in the development pipeline—including more than 7,000 that have received planning approvals—it is clear that Burlington is doing its part to meet the Province's housing targets. There is no need to sacrifice greenspace, nor to place further strain on ecologically sensitive areas such as Appleby and Sheldon Creeks, to achieve intensification goals.

Furthermore, Halton Region's unanimous support of this initiative, the involvement of MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos, and the petition signed by thousands of residents all speak to the overwhelming local desire to protect this land. This is not a "Not In My Backyard" issue—it is a "Protect What Makes Burlington Livable" issue.

Issuing an MZO for the remaining greenspace would not set a provincial precedent, but rather serve as a measured, thoughtful decision that acknowledges the exceptional context and design of Millcroft. It would show that the Province is willing to collaborate with municipalities to balance growth with long-term environmental stewardship.

I urge you to continue pressing for Minister Rob Flack's response and to pursue every mechanism available to secure this protection. Burlington deserves predictability, sustainability, and access to urban greenspace—not short-term development that puts our future at risk.

Thank you again for your dedication to this issue and to the residents you serve.

Sincerely,
Liz Volk