



December 6, 2004

Mr. Bill Fisch  
Chairman, Regional Municipality of York  
Regional Municipality of York  
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*Our Project No. 03:1332*

Dear Mr. Fisch and Members of Council:

**Re: BILL 135 - GREENBELT ACT, 2004 AND THE GREENBELT DRAFT PLAN  
RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DECEMBER 1, 2004  
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 I spoke at the Planning and Economic Development Committee in regard to the above mentioned report and indicated that there were certain recommendations that I thought might be modified to either clarify or strengthen the Region's position in providing comments to the Province on the draft Greenbelt Plan.

Chairman Scarpitti at the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting requested these comments in writing. Accordingly, please find them enclosed herewith.

1. I suggest that the intent of recommendation #1 could be strengthened by adding text such as the following:

“It is imperative that the structure of the Province's Growth Management Plan first define where growth may proceed, and the infrastructure requirements associated with it, before the Greenbelt is settled This will ensure that the Greenbelt does not preclude growth options.”

I believe that this wording is consistent with the mood of the Committee and the comments of Chair Scarpitti.

2. In regard to recommendation # 2, I would suggest that the dates for adoption of conformity amendments be changed to 12 and 18 months or as soon as practically possible, and further that the Bill 135 conformity exercise proceed concurrent with the conformity exercise that will be required by the Province's Growth Plan.
3. Recommendation # 14 should be expanded to request that the wording clearly clarify that infrastructure such as the extension of Highways 404 and 427, the Bradford Link and the Southeast Collector Sewer will not be limited by the Greenbelt.

4. With regard to Recommendation # 17, I am concerned that land south of the Oak Ridges Moraine requires a 120 meter wide corridor along watercourses. This is excessive, arbitrary and without any scientific basis. I request that the requirement be reduced.

It seems unnecessary to have a corridor of 120 meters. The features we are dealing with in the upper reaches of channels are often poorly defined and contains few Natural Heritage Features. In the Oak Ridges Moraine a 30 meter vegetation protection zone is used and this is intended to be for an area where environmental preservation is a priority. It would seem excessive to have a higher standard in an area of urban development.

I trust these comments are helpful to you and thank you for the opportunity to provide my input.

Yours very truly,  
**MALONE GIVEN PARSONS LTD.**

Don F. Given, MCIP, RPP  
President

cc  
Brian Tuckey, Commissioner of Planning, York Region  
F. Scarpitti, Chairman, Planning & Economic Development Committee  
K. Price, Committee Co-ordinator, York Region  
Neil Rogers, UDI  
Mayor R. Grossi, Town of Georgina  
Clients