



Tim Hudak, M.P.P., Erie-Lincoln

December 1, 2004

**REGION OF YORK
CLERK'S OFFICE**

FILE No. -

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Dear Heads of Council,

I am writing today with some urgency regarding the very tight consultation timelines for the proposed Greenbelt Act. As you know, the McGuinty Government is planning to pass the Greenbelt legislation by December 16, 2004.

Similarly, the McGuinty Government has set December 12 as the deadline for submissions and comments from municipalities and other concerned groups and individuals. **This leaves a maximum of only four days for MPPs and interested parties to review hundreds of submissions from across the Province before being asked to vote on the legislation by December 16.**

The recent Greenbelt Town Hall meetings have been among the most heated and emotional sessions in recent memory. The Greenbelt, very broad in its scope and impact, will have significant implications for municipalities, farmers, environmentalists and other concerned citizens for generations to come.

It is important that we take the time to get it right.

Yesterday in the Ontario Legislature, I called on Premier Dalton McGuinty to extend the deadline for consultations and send the Greenbelt legislation to an all-party Legislative Committee in the new year.

Many municipal leaders including Durham Regional Chair Roger Anderson, Erin Mayor Rod Finnie and the Planning Committees of Durham Region and Wellington County have expressed concern that the deadlines do not give enough time for a proper and thorough review of the Greenbelt.

Yesterday, Ontario Federation of Agriculture President Ron Bonnett called on the McGuinty Government to extend the deadline for public consultations on the Greenbelt. The OFA said it wants to see an all-party committee to hold public hearings on the Greenbelt plan before it goes to a vote in the Legislature.

Municipal leaders, farmers, environmentalists and we in the Official Opposition all support the preservation of green space. In fact, I am proud to be part of a Progressive Conservative Party with an admirable record of conservation including the Lands for Life initiative, the award winning Oak Ridges Moraine Protection Plan and the Great Lakes Heritage Coast.

However, there are growing, broad based and fundamental concerns about the implementation of the Greenbelt and the science upon which the map is based.





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In order to get the Greenbelt right, I need your help. I urge you to contact Premier McGuinty and Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister John Gerretsen to ask for more time and to send the legislation to an all-party Legislative Committee.

You can contact them at:

Hon. Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Hon. John Gerretsen
Minister of Municipal Affairs
777 Bay St., 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dalton.McGuinty@premier.gov.on.ca

jgerretsen.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Secondly, I ask that you kindly copy me as the Official Opposition Critic with your views on how the Greenbelt can be improved and how we can ensure that it is based on good science.

In closing, please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Hudak", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Hudak, MPP
PC Critic for Municipal Affairs

