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Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 11:30 AM

To: kkitteringham@markham.ca; Mayor Frank Scarpitti; Regional Councillor Jim Jones; Regional Councillor Gordon Landon; jvirgilio@markham.ca; Regional Councillor Jack Heath; eshapero@markham.ca; vburke@markham.ca; dhamilton@markham.ca; jwebster@markham.ca; dhorchik@markham.ca; lkanapathi@markham.ca; achiu@markham.ca; cmoretti@markham.ca; FutureYork; Regional Clerk; dmccguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; mchan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; hjaczek.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; peter.shurmanco@pc.ola.org; Calandra.P@parl.gc.ca; McCalJ@parl.gc.ca; Kent.P@parl.gc.ca

Subject: Markham's Foodbelt / Markham's Quality of Life / Canada's Quality of Life

Thank you for your time everyone.

I am a very concerned York Region citizen. This is an issue across York Region and the rest of Canada. However, Markham is currently at a turning point. Myself along with many other citizens are concerned that dwindling farmland will be further diminished if the York Region 22-yr growth plan is not altered.

I do not profess to be an expert on the topic but it is clear just by reading the local articles and following the reports that farmland is disappearing at an alarming rate. Instead of focusing on grow, grow, grow; can we not focus on getting what we have functioning and working properly? Clearly, the full speed ahead approach to growth across all of North America has led to major ecological and economical issues not to mention energy, traffic and pollution issues.

Let's take a stand and do it right this time. A time-out if you will. Let's stabilize all of those issues and really look at how growth can work properly with consideration to all involved including farmland.

If we can accomplish this, we can be a model to the rest of Canada and the world. It's not all about money folks!

So in conclusion, we are encouraging you to "DO THE RIGHT THING!"

1. Please refrain from passing the regional official growth plan until further public consultation and planning has occurred in Markham;
2. Limit Markham's population growth to less than 25% over the next 22 years;

3. Create a permanent Markham foodbelt and natural heritage system by expanding the Greenbelt from the Oak Ridges Moraine southward to Major Mackenzie Drive;
4. Protect communities from over intensification - enact height restrictions near existing residential communities (e.g. six storey maximum).

Thanks again for your time and attention.

Please consider the environment before printing this email!

Bernie Zeesman

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