

From: Elizabeth Blokker

Sent: Sunday, December 11, 2022 10:59 PM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Bill 23 Proposed by the Ontario Government- Included 2022-12-13 Council Added Agenda

Hello,

My name is Elizabeth Blokker and I request that this letter be placed on the Public Agenda for item: City of London Corporate Growth Projections 2021-2051

This letter is in regards to London City Council voting to support Bill 23 Population Growth Projections.

The passing of Bill 23 is disturbing for many reasons:

As a resident in London, I am very worried about what this means for setting the precedent for development in Ontario. London has developed a robust climate action plan that promotes densification in the city, and reduces urban sprawl while protecting our natural heritage within the city. Bill 23 is in direct opposition to promoting this type of development in cities that is so desperately needed to address our climate crisis.

Bill 23 does not address the housing crisis that it is claiming to. It is encouraging the building of luxury homes, and expanding urban sprawl. This type of development will be more expensive for London, as we taxpayers will need to support the costly supporting infrastructure for these subdivisions. We should be heavily prioritizing development within the city instead of expanding our borders outward.

Expanding outward will only ensure that we lock residents out the outskirts of the city to use cars to get around, as they are not close to any of the necessities such as hospitals, grocery stores, and entertainment. People don't want to live like that. It is frustrating to not be close to what you need, and always have to drive 20 minutes to get to where you need to go. Expanding outward will only increase traffic within the city as well, which is already a major frustration when trying to get around in this city.

The science is crystal clear. We need to change how our cities expand to reduce reliance on fossil fuel driven vehicles. We need to be building up, not out, as London expands.

London is also in a housing crisis. There is a many year wait for affordable housing, and building luxury homes on the outskirts of London will NOT address the needs of London residents. This will only push more people into poverty as the rate of living continues to sky rocket.

To truly solve the housing crisis, London should focus on land in existing urban areas that is close to transit and services people want. For example, there are SO many huge parking lots within city limits. Why can we not look to these spaces as opportunities to develop, such as the example set by the Masonville transit village? It would be good for the businesses in the area because so many people will live so close to what they need.

London can be different. We have the capacity to take care of our people, to further develop our downtown businesses and make it a sustainable destination for all residents to enjoy. Our city can

become active transit friendly and a good place for everyone to live. We need to prioritize development within our city limits to make this happen though.

PLEASE don't support the provinces passing of Bill 23. Use your voice as city councillors to speak up against this undemocratic process.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

I hope you have a good day,

Elizabeth Blokker