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To: [Council](#); regionalcouncillors@regionofwaterloo.ca
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Subject: Defending our land use planning process and protecting Wilmot's farmland
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Note to clerks: please include in official correspondence to council

Members of Regional and Wilmot Township Council

Subject: Defending Our Land Use Planning Process and Protecting Wilmot's Farmland

Dear Members of Regional and Wilmot Township Council,

The provincial government's reckless attempted land assembly in Wilmot Township is an outright attack on our land use planning system and a grave threat to the future of our region. The decision to acquire prime farmland without clear alignment with planning policies, without municipal approval, and without proper public consultation is unacceptable. It disregards years of careful planning, undermines democratic processes, and jeopardizes the long-term sustainability of our communities.

Ontario's land use planning framework is meant to ensure responsible growth while protecting essential resources like farmland. However, the province's actions demonstrate a blatant disregard for these principles. With recent changes casting uncertainty over the status of the **Region of Waterloo's Official Plan**, there is even greater urgency to demand clarity and accountability before irreversible damage is done. Without firm opposition from local leaders, the province will continue to dismantle established planning processes and dictate land use decisions with little regard for community needs.

The land comprising the proposed land assembly on Bleams Road is not just another development opportunity—it is a critical part of our local agricultural economy, our environment, and our food security. Converting it into urban sprawl flies in the face of smart growth principles, which prioritize intensification over farmland destruction. The province's industrial mega-site ambitions not only threaten our Region's carefully planned future but also set a dangerous precedent for unchecked government interference in municipal planning.

Equally disturbing is the complete lack of meaningful municipal and public consultation. The people of Wilmot and Waterloo Region deserve a say in how their communities evolve, yet they have been sidelined. Ignoring local voices in such a significant decision is an affront to democratic governance and responsible planning. The Region expects respect from individuals delegating to council, yet it seems unwilling to extend that same respect to the community by meaningfully addressing concerns raised by residents. This double standard is unacceptable and further erodes public trust in the decision-making process.

I urge you to take a strong and unequivocal stance against this land grab. Demand

transparency from the province, insist on adherence to proper planning processes, and stand up for the interests of your constituents. If this overreach is allowed to continue unchallenged, it will not stop with Wilmot—every municipality will be at risk of losing control over its future.

The people of this Region and this Township are watching. Will you stand with them to protect our farmland and our right to a fair, transparent, and democratic planning process? I implore you to act now before it is too late.

Sincerely,
Anne Loeffler M. Sc., B. Sc. (Agr), P.Ag. (ret)

