



May 26th, 2022

Re: Official Plan Review Growth Scenario - Land Needs Assessment (LNA)

Attention: Wilmot, Region of Waterloo Councils; Wilmot, Regional Planning,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Region of Waterloo's Official Plan Growth Plan Scenario review.

Citizens for Safe Ground Water (CSGW), based in *Wilmot Township*, and with supporters that live, work, and play throughout Waterloo Region, are supportive of community-led "Option #4". We believe this option has thoughtfully and respectfully been brought forth as a practical alternative to "Options 1/2/3" currently on the table by Regional Staff.

Option 4 ensures that *Sensitive Recharge Areas*, in addition to *Source Water Protection Areas*, remain prioritized, and protected. This is extremely important for a Municipality that is dependent upon groundwater (i.e., Waterloo Moraine) to feed its 'Integrated Urban System' (IUS) to provide clean drinking water to all of its Citizens.

CSGW also believes that *Option 4* is not only the simplest option provided to date, but also the most ambitious, with no loss of *Prime Farmland*. Farmland that is considered to be one of the best in Ontario. Local-based food security is paramount more than ever, at a time of global instability, global warming, and severe inflation. This not only benefits Waterloo Region, but the Province of Ontario. Because as we know, *good things grow in Ontario*.

CSGW believes we need bold and innovative planning to ensure our continued shared prosperity, while we continue to be a leader in smart, sustainable growth, well into the future.

To conclude, *our vibrant communities rely on **farmland and groundwater first!***

Sincerely,

Samantha Lernout
President
Citizens for Safe Ground Water