



## Waterloo Federation of Agriculture

Monday September 23, 2024

Dear Wilmot Council,

The Waterloo Federation of Agriculture represents family farms and businesses in Waterloo Region. The issue of intensification and the need to provide a variety of housing options for Wilmot residents is important to us as higher urban densities protect farmland. The Federation has been active for over 40 years in encouraging a good planning regime that provides a variety of housing options, employment opportunities, helps shape urban form, enables complete communities and preserves farmland and the rural landscape.

We wish to support the proposed development on Bergey Court in New Hamburg. In our opinion, this proposal is an good example of gentle intensification that provides a housing option that is in great demand in Wilmot. The compact form and design of the dwellings enables a price point that is far more affordable than less dense options. The proposal's location, in close proximity to a major highway and green open space, fits well with the desires of potential residents and the need to provide new housing options within walking distance of desired amenities.

It is also compliant with the Official Plan and the Provincial Planning Statement and it compliments the small town character of New Hamburg. It does concern us that the density is so low. If the municipality and its residents really want to enable more affordable and appropriate housing for both young families and our increasing population of seniors, higher densities are required especially in or near the urban core. Furthermore, higher densities are required to prevent sprawl and protect farmland.. In conclusion we support the application in its entirety as an example of very gentle density and as a step toward future higher density developments that will provide even more affordable and desirable living space for residents of Wilmot and at the same time protect the farmland that feeds us.

Nic Weber

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