



February 17, 2021

Good morning Chair Carr, Mayors, Regional Councillors, staff and everyone on the call today

Thank you for this opportunity and thank you to all of you for your ongoing leadership and efforts for the pandemic emergency.

I wanted to briefly provide comment in support of extending the Consultation Period for the Regional Official Plan Review.

As a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization operating in Burlington since 2007, we are a part of the community and as such aim to continually do our best to listen to and serve the interests of fellow residents, youth and all sectors as we advance our important mission work. And certainly given the magnitude of the far-reaching implications (*and* the opportunities) of the ROP, we propose extended opportunities for effective, meaningful community engagement are warranted if not essential.

We don't see granting this proposed extension as a delay, but instead as a valuable opportunity. Our submission to all of you on the Regional OP including the climate change discussion paper this past October, included a recommendation specific to **public engagement**.

There we recommended that staff from each Halton municipality review the Regional OP Discussion papers via their 'own' Strategic and Official Plans and Climate Emergency lens, to then prepare **relatable, user-friendly** overviews, inviting the community to review and provide input. Sharing with the community how the Regional Official Plan will potentially shape the landscape and policy decision-making within their own communities as well as within the Region as a whole, is likely to result in more informed, effective engagement, and an improved inclusive process, and ultimately, better outcomes and with more community buy in. Thus, an extended consultation period would support this opportunity.

And finally, we all are seeing a growing body of research coming forth regarding the importance of revisiting land use planning policies and the interrelationship with active community-led

participation. Covid-19 has changed the way people interact with the environment. Just this morning I read a helpful article from Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition citing that while participatory planning and citizen science are gaining prominence, policy-makers need to embrace local knowledge more readily.

Thank you for listening.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Schnurr".

Amy Schnurr
Executive Director

The logo for Burlington Green Environmental Association. The word "Burlington" is in blue, "Green" is in green, and "Environmental Association" is in a smaller green font below. A stylized green leaf icon is positioned between "Burlington" and "Green".

Burlington Green
Environmental Association