November 25, 2022

Re: Not allowing Bill C23 to proceed

Dear Environmental Registry of Ontario Comments committee or whomever it may Concern,

The proposal for Bill C23 to convert the protected greenbelt into a housing development, along with weakening environmental protection, is short-sighted and outright irresponsible.

With many Canadians now feeling the effects of rising food costs and the need for local food security, keeping farmland protected is crucial. With the adverse effects of climate change starting to affect many Canadians, destroying natural areas that help mitigate flooding and other climate related natural disasters, in this day and age is simply backwards thinking.

Yes, we need more housing, but there are other options such as increasing urban density and building homes on land that is not protected.

Our business, Copernicus Educational Products is a small to medium sized manufacturing business that employs approximately 50 people in Arthur, Ontario. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars protecting approximately 1600 acres of land in Ontario and Quebec through donations of our lands to land trusts, conservation easements through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and other lands that are sitting idle to sequester carbon, provide habitat for wildlife and other ecosystem services. We look upon the money we spend on land preservation as taxing ourselves now for the sake of future generations.

Knowing that Bill 23 will weaken or potentially jeopardise these protected lands is disheartening and does our children, grandchildren and future generations a great disservice.

We urge you to not allow Bill 23 to be approved.

Regards,



Jim Phillips Kaylyn Belcourt

CEO President