

Waterloo Regional Labour Council

50 Sportsworld Crossing, Suite 220
Kitchener, ON N2P 0A4



02 April 2024

Chair Karen Redman
Region of Waterloo
150 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON N2G 4J3

RE: Wilmot Township Farmland Expropriation

Chair Karen Redman:

We are deeply concerned about the expropriation of 770 acres of prime farmland situated northeast of the intersection of Nafziger and Bleams roads in Wilmot Township for potential industrial development. According to a report released by the [Ontario Federation of Agriculture](#) in June 2022, Ontario is losing over 300 acres of farmland per day. As farmland becomes a more diminishable resource, we lose our ability to feed our own population, which is an important pillar to being a well-functioning and sustainable society.

With some of the most fertile land for crop cultivation in the entire country existing in Wilmot Township, we question why the land proposed for expropriation is happening, as it is already serving an important purpose with reference to the long-term sustainability of Waterloo Region. Moreover, we question why this particular location is being chosen for expropriation as it counters the Region of Waterloo's own environmental, sustainability and climate change initiatives, and it will have a major impact on the Region's water supply. We question if reclaimed aggregate sites, grey field, brownfield, or other already compromised locations that already abound in the Region and Township were even considered, given there has been a complete lack of public consultation and transparency in this land assembly. And while we recognize that it is important that the Region encourages large employers to locate here, we believe a more logical location would be one closer to urban centres and public transit so as to limit pollution and ensure our labour force is not further hampered by potentially long commutes.

Lastly, we question who is to gain through this land acquisition, especially as the current landowners and the local community are not being provided any answers by Wilmot Township Council and the Region of Waterloo as to why this is happening, as well as what the rezoning of this land will entail.

The public wants answers!

The impact of this decision has the potential to have long-standing consequences for not only the people of Wilmot Township, but also Waterloo Region. As such, we respectfully request that the Region of Waterloo cease its actions to expropriate this farmland in Wilmot Township and to ensure it follows democratic principles moving forward should it need to explore land expropriations in the future.

Sincerely,

The Executive of the Waterloo Region Labour Council

CC: Region of Waterloo Council
 Wilmot Township Council
 Micheal Harris Jr. MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga
 Jess Dixon, MPP for Kitchener South-Hespeler
 Brian Riddell, MPP for Cambridge
 Aislinn Clancy, MPP for Kitchener Centre
 Catherine Fife, MPP for Waterloo
 Tim Louis, MP for Kitchener-Conestoga