**Neil E. Taylor**

**1016A Wilson Ave.**

**Kitchener, ON N2C 1J3**

July 30, 2024

Attention: Regional Council Members,

I am moved to write in protest re. the various unscrupulous tactics the Region has employed in the bullying and intimidation of landowners to acquire their rich farmland in Wilmot Township for unspecified development. These unworthy manoeuvres might be more easily found in a municipality in a “Banana Republic”. Shame on Regional Councillors.

Some of these disgraceful schemes apparently include trying to divide the owners by:

* speaking with them individually rather than as a group,
* making misleading statements, and
* acquiring land and then destroying a valuable crop.

When I moved to the Region 52 years ago, I was in awe at the richness of the farmland that was and continues to be managed with exemplary stewardship of the resources of soil and water. I recognized this quite easily as a son of 4 generations of farmers.

Quite frankly, I am disgusted at the lack of principled planning as it applies to farmland. The Region is fully culpable in this matter. It appears that the Region has acquiesced to unscrupulous developers and their advocates whose greed and avarice is beyond bounds.

Many question the integrity of each member of the Regional Council and the lack of transparency. The landowners have been unequivocal. They are “Unwilling Hosts”. I join citizens throughout the Region, the Province and beyond in decrying the wanton destruction of a crop valued at $160,000. There can be no justification for this malevolent act. It appears that this strongarm act is meant to intimidate the landowners and those who support them. You misjudge our resolve.

I implore the Chair and all Regional Councillors to reconsider and back off this il-conceived intent at land acquisition in Wilmot Township once and for all.

Respectfully submitted,



Neil E. Taylor

C.c. Interested parties