June 10, 2008

Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A7

Honourable Sir:

Re: Greenbelt Plan – Economic Effects on Farmers and Municipalities

Please be advised that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby, at its meeting on June 2, 2008, adopted the following resolution:

“Whereas the Greenbelt Plan claims to "protect against the loss and fragmentation of the agricultural land base and to support agriculture as the predominant land use" without providing essential economic support for Ontario farmers; and

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan claims to "provide for a diverse range of economic and social activities associated with rural communities, agriculture, tourism, recreation and resource uses" without allowing municipalities to plan and create parks within the designated Greenbelt area; and

Whereas the Greenbelt Plan, in "identifying where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological features and functions occurring on this landscape" has effectively frozen all future growth in numerous municipalities throughout Ontario negatively affecting the ability of these municipalities to balance future budgets; and

Whereas the Greenbelt has frozen development on lands where municipalities have spent millions of dollars providing municipal services for future growth;

.../2
Now therefore be it resolved

1) That the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby requests that the Ontario Provincial Government conduct a detailed study into the economic effects of the Greenbelt on farmers and municipalities; and

2) That the Ontario Provincial Government provide transfer funding to municipalities frozen by the Greenbelt to ensure the economic stability of Greenbelt towns and cities; and

3) That the Ontario Provincial Government provide compensation to municipalities equal to the cost of municipal services within lands frozen by Greenbelt designation; and

4) That the Ontario Provincial Government provide tax relief to farmers within the Greenbelt area to protect and sustain farming in the Greenbelt Area for future generations; and

5) That a copy of this resolution be provided to all municipalities affected by the Greenbelt Legislation with a request for endorsement; and

6) That a copy of this resolution be provided to Premier Dalton McGuinty, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, the Minister of Public Infrastructure and AMO.

We look forward to hearing from you with respect to this matter.

Yours truly,

Kathryn J. Vout, A.M.C.T.
Town Clerk

c.c. Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Hon. David Caplan, Minister of Public Infrastructure Renewal
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Municipalities in the Greenbelt Area
Mr. Tim Hudak, M.P.P., Niagara West/Glanbrook