May 9, 2006

Mayor Larry Di Ianni and Members of Council  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON  
L8P 4Y5  

BY FAX  

Dear Mayor Di Ianni and Members of Council:  

RE: Protection of the Greenbelt within the City of Hamilton  

We are writing to express the concerns of Environmental Defence regarding a severance request within the Greenbelt. We refer specifically to Ancaster resident Ben Loewith’s request to sever 25.4 acres of land to join an existing 1.03 acre residential parcel.  

This type of request sets up a dangerous precedent within the Greenbelt, and does not meet the goals of the Greenbelt Plan. As well, the Plan does not permit severances below a minimum size of 100 acres in a prime agricultural area, which the proposed severance is well below.  

Environmental Defence strongly encourages Council to not allow small severance applications in rural areas. This piecemeal approach runs counter to the intention of the Greenbelt to create a strong agricultural system. Given the importance of maintaining an intact and well-connected Greenbelt, we respectfully request that you do not support the decision of the committee of the adjustment to allow this severance request to proceed.  

Maintaining the cohesiveness of the Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt is essential for protecting valuable green space and achieving sustainable growth in southern Ontario. It is also an important step for maintaining public confidence in both the provincial and municipal governments’ efforts to achieve these goals.  

Yours sincerely,  

[Signature]  

Rick Smith, Ph. D.  
Executive Director, Environmental Defence  

Co: The Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable Laurel Broten, Minister of the Environment