

April 24, 2008

Ms. Joanne Hickey-Evans  
Manager, Policy Planning  
Strategic Services, Special Project  
Policy Planning  
City of Hamilton  
77 James St. N.  
Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3

Dear Joanne:

**Re: Employment Lands Study - City of Hamilton**

On behalf of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, I want to thank you and your staff for various presentations you have made to our Business Development Committee and others at the Chamber. It has helped tremendously in aiding our understanding of the choices available to the City, and how we might embrace future economic opportunities.

We generally support the position the City is taking in planning for the long-term needs of our community. In particular, we are fully supportive of developing new employment lands around the airport. We believe that the implementation of these plans should begin as quickly as possible so that lands can be brought onto the market within the next two years.

While we generally support the direction staff is taking, we have two specific recommendations that we feel, if implemented, would provide additional flexibility to properly take advantage of the economic opportunities that will be attracted to our community over the next twenty years.

We recognize that many of the planning initiatives being put forward by the City are in response to Provincial policy. While we appreciate the benefit of having an overriding planning framework, we are concerned that the Province is far too involved in local planning matters. We, as a community, should be able to develop policies that are geared toward our own local needs and opportunities which may not be applicable elsewhere. Therefore, it is the position of the Chamber that the City should also take a strong position and put forward the best possible plan for Hamilton.

We at the Chamber are prepared to do our part and will be talking directly to Provincial officials and

possibly our counterparts in Chamber organizations elsewhere throughout the Province to ensure the outcome of this exercise generates the best possible solution for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity of participating in this process. Can you please let us know when this matter will be considered by Economic Development and Planning Committee. The Chamber may want to make a formal presentation to the Committee with respect to this matter.

Sincerely,

**HAMILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Tyler MacLeod  
President

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