

For Immediate Release

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT Applauds Durham Regional Council Decision to Protect the Greenbelt Council Defeats Recommendation To Remove Land From The Greenbelt

TORONTO - The McGuinty government applauds Durham Regional Council's decision to defend the Greenbelt.

Durham Council has defeated a recommendation from its Planning Committee to include an attachment to its Official Plan that identified lands it wanted removed from the Greenbelt. Council also approved a motion to take no further action on the issue.

"Durham Regional Council has made an historic decision that respects and supports the integrity of the Greenbelt," said John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "We are proud that the Council has recognized the importance of our efforts to preserve this valuable resource. The Greenbelt provides sufficient land for further growth in Durham, while leaving a legacy of protected greenspace for future generations."

The Greenbelt permanently protects more than 1.8 million acres of prime agricultural and environmentally sensitive land around the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

The Greenbelt is part of the McGuinty government's commitment to environmental protection. It is also a key component of the province's reform of the planning system, which includes changes to the Provincial Policy Statement, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and most recently, reforms to the Planning Act that came into force on January 1, 2007.

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Contacts: Patti Munce Minister's Office (416) 585-6333 Larry Clay Regional Director Central Municipal Services Office (416) 585-7264

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