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Proposed Amendment to the Greenbelt Area Boundary Regulation – Growing the Size of the Greenbelt (ERO # 019-4483)

The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario. The OHBA represents over 4,000 members including builders, professional renovators, suppliers, trade contractors and many others within the residential construction sector. Our members build the supply and choices required to accommodate the housing needs of Ontarians.

OHBA appreciates the opportunity to participate and provide feedback on the *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)* initiative regarding the proposed amendment to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (*Ontario Regulation 59/05*) to grow the size of the Greenbelt. The OHBA response pertains to the recent posting on the *Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) # 019-4483*. This posting relates directly to *ERO posting # 019-4485* with respect to proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Plan and *ERO posting # 019-4803* pertaining to Urban River Valleys identified and proposed to grow the size of the Greenbelt to which the OHBA has provided comments under separate cover in each case.

The OHBA values the opportunity to provide feedback on the *MMAH* consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt and implemented through the proposed amendment to *O. Reg 59/05*. Our Association continues to support the principle of protecting the province's most valuable environmental resources. At the same time, it is important to realize and recognize that our industry members continue to build complete communities in accordance with provincial policies which provide the foundation of the provincial *Growth Plan*. It is essential that such a framework is balanced and coherent while at the same time accommodates the population growth realities and expectations of the province.

The OHBA has confidence in the strategic approach reflected in the proposed amendment to the regulation. Such a vision is appropriate as it recognizes further environmental protections for lands through both local and provincial planning policy initiatives. The inclusion of an additional thirteen Urban River Valleys within the Greenbelt as outlined in the *ERO # 019-4483* posting has considerable merit.

As such, the OHBA is supportive of the components and extent of the Greenbelt as proposed in the *ERO # 019-4483* posting for inclusion in *O. Reg. 59/05*. The OHBA again is thankful for the opportunity to provide its commentary regarding the planning framework addressed and detailed in the provincial *Greenbelt Plan*. The consideration of the OHBA's input to the current posting is appreciated.