



April 22, 2022

The Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> floor  
Toronto, Ontario, M5G 2E5

Re: Housing affordability

The Durham Business Alliance represents the eight chambers of commerce and boards of trade of Durham Region and a combined membership of approximately 2,500 local businesses and organizations.

As you know, housing affordability is a critical issue in this Province. Solving the housing shortfall is needed to support our residents and our business community.

For businesses, the growing unaffordability of housing in our community is significantly impacting their ability to attract and retain their employees and maintain their operations, while also eroding their customer base.

The provincial [Housing Affordability Task Force](#) has made recommendations on how to address this issue, including a recommendation to eliminate exclusionary zoning. Consideration should be given to gentle densification and giving priority to higher density development priority in local building departments.

On behalf of our members, the Durham Business Alliance believes that eliminating exclusionary zoning policies is a critical recommendation that the provincial government should adopt. Exclusionary zoning policies are an outdated approach to planning that prohibit even modest forms of density such as triplexes in most residential neighbourhoods.

Allowing more types of homes in more places will help address the Region of Durham housing affordability crisis and enable a host of other economic, environmental and social benefits.

We hope that you will support ending exclusionary zoning policies and thank you for the opportunity to represent the voice and needs of our members and stakeholders. The Durham Business Alliance looks forward to working with all levels of government to support the growth and success of businesses and organizations of Durham Region and beyond.



Sincerely,

Talia Lane  
President  
Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade

Elizabeth Burley  
President  
Brock Board of Trade

Sheila Hall  
Executive Director  
Clarington Board of Trade

Jason King  
Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce

Jane Black  
President  
Newcastle & District Chamber of Commerce

Karey Anne Large  
Executive Director  
Scugog Chamber of Commerce

Rick Nihda  
Executive Director  
Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce

Andrew Scuse  
President of the Board  
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

C.C.

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing ([minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca))

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Mr. Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby

Mr. John Henry, Regional Chair & CEO

Mr. Don Mitchell, Mayor Town of Whitby