

Feb 3, 2026

BY E-MAIL

councilmeeting@toronto.ca
Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: City Clerk, Toronto City Council

To: Mayor Chow and Members of Council

Re: Item 2026.PH 27.20 - Preserving Employment Lands and Protecting Local Jobs

The South Etobicoke Industrial Employers' Association (SEIEA) represents a group of manufacturers and industrial businesses, across several industry sectors with operations and facilities in the South Etobicoke Employment Area.

We support the recommendations to 1) request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to approve OPA 804 and 2) develop a shared call to action to protect and preserve employment lands in the City.

Employment Lands across the City, and in our Employment Area - South Etobicoke are under constant threat of conversion to sensitive uses. The most recent example of these can be seen in Items PH27.11, 27.12, 27.13 which deal with conversion applications in South Etobicoke and staff's recommendation to oppose these at the OLT. We have submitted a separate letter on these and deputed at PHC in support of staff's recommendation. This pattern will be repeated City wide putting the City's Employment Lands and jobs at risk.

A broader strategy is required to preserve the City's Employment Lands and preserve the jobs that these lands offer for Toronto residents. PH27.20 addresses this by bringing together industrial employers, labour, business, and government stakeholders to emphasize the importance of employment lands and their protection with all levels of government in order to maintain and grow jobs in the City and the Province.

Over the past year, the challenges with US tariffs have amplified the importance of preserving employment areas in the City so that manufacturers and businesses can operate their facilities unencumbered and that sufficient employment lands remain available for businesses to operate, expand, and for new businesses to locate here.

Employment Lands are required for current and future employment. The City's Land Needs Assessment found that "Toronto's total employment is projected to grow from 1,607,800 in 2016 to between 1,938,800 and 2,101,200 jobs in 2051, while jobs in Employment Areas are projected to grow from 410,700 to between 456,600 and 498,600."

Conversion of Employment Lands is not required. The City's latest Land Needs Assessment determined that "there is more than sufficient potential housing in areas designated in the Official Plan for residential development to accommodate Growth Plan population forecasts in 2051."

Employment Lands sustain the jobs that are an important part of the solution to housing challenges. Manufacturing jobs provide good wages and benefits, which provide the means for Toronto's residents to pay rents, save for downpayments and afford mortgages.

We ask Council to approve the recommendations in PH27.20 in order to support the preservation of Employment Lands in the City.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Brezina". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small flourish at the end.

Al Brezina

Executive Director
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cc: Councillor A. Morley