



Richard Szpin <zippyonego@gmail.com>

Subject: Formal Support for "Option 4": Full Incorporation of Pickering Federal Lands into Rouge National Urban Park

1 message

Mike Borie <mikeborie@hotmail.com>

Sun, May 3, 2026 at 11:01 PM

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To: Prime Minister Mark Carney, MP Juanita Nathan, MP Steven MacKinnon, MP Julie Dabrusin, MP Heath MacDonald, Mayor Kevin Ashe, and Pickering City Councillors,

Subject: Formal Support for "Option 4": Full Incorporation of Pickering Federal Lands into Rouge National Urban Park

May 03, 2026

I am writing to you today as a concerned resident to formally advocate for a "4th Option" regarding the future of the Pickering Federal Lands: the transfer of all remaining 9,300 acres to Parks Canada for the permanent expansion of [Rouge National Urban Park](#).

The current consultation scenarios focus heavily on varying degrees of industrial and residential development. While I understand the pressures of economic growth, these lands represent a finite, irreplaceable resource. **Durham Region, including Pickering, already has a vast supply of land designated for development** that does not require paving over irreplaceable federal farmland.

Developing these Class 1 agricultural soils and sensitive headwaters in favor of short-term developer interests is a generational mistake that undermines our regional climate resilience and food security.

I am advocating for "Option 4"—Total Preservation—for the following reasons:

- 1. Ecological Integrity:** Piece-meal development threatens the wildlife corridors and water systems that Rouge National Urban Park was designed to protect. Only a full transfer ensures the park remains a functional ecosystem.
- 2. Agricultural Security:** These lands contain some of Canada's richest soil. In an era of climate instability, we must prioritize local food hubs over warehouse rooftops and asphalt.
- 3. A Vision for Conservation:** MP Nathan, you have previously noted that proper consultation is a priority for these lands. We believe that consultation is only complete if a full-conservation model is presented as a viable path.

I urge both our federal and municipal leadership to pivot from a development-led vision and join community groups like [Land Over Landings](#) in calling for the protection of every acre of this site.

I look forward to hearing your position on prioritizing preservation over pavement.

Sincerely,

Mike Borie
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