



June 8, 2026

From:
West End Home Builders' Association
1112 Rymal Road East
Hamilton, Ontario L8W 3N7

To: **Mayor and Members of Committee of the Whole**
City of Burlington
426 Brant Street
Burlington, ON

RE: Motion Regarding Construction Working Hours (COW 16-26)

Dear Mayor Meed Ward and Members of Council,

On behalf of the West End Home Builders' Association (WE HBA), representing more than 300 companies involved in the residential construction, land development, renovation, and professional services sectors across Hamilton, Burlington, and the surrounding area, we are writing to express our strong opposition to any further restrictions on permitted construction working hours within the City of Burlington.

The residential construction industry is currently facing one of the most difficult economic environments in a generation. Housing starts have fallen dramatically, new home sales remain at historic lows, and thousands of construction and skilled trades jobs have been lost across Ontario. Governments at all levels are actively pursuing policies intended to reduce barriers, accelerate housing delivery, and lower the cost of building new homes. Against this backdrop, imposing additional restrictions on construction hours would move Burlington in the opposite direction.

Construction is a highly coordinated activity involving numerous trades, suppliers, consultants, inspectors, and specialized contractors. Projects are carefully scheduled to maximize productivity and minimize delays. Reducing available working hours creates significant challenges in coordinating labour, equipment, and material deliveries, particularly in an industry already facing skilled labour shortages.

Every hour lost on a construction site has consequences. Shorter workdays often translate into longer project timelines, increased labour costs, additional financing costs, and scheduling inefficiencies. Delays can create cascading impacts across multiple projects as trades are forced to reschedule crews and equipment. These additional costs are ultimately borne by future homeowners, renters, businesses, and community organizations that depend on new housing and construction investment.



At a time when affordability remains a top concern for residents, policymakers should be looking for opportunities to reduce unnecessary costs and delays, not introduce new ones.

It is also important to recognize that Burlington already maintains reasonable and balanced regulations governing construction noise. Construction activity is generally permitted between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., with mechanisms available to seek exemptions where necessary. These regulations are generally consistent with those found in many municipalities across Ontario.

While we recognize that construction activity can create temporary inconvenience for nearby residents, construction is also an essential activity that delivers housing, infrastructure, schools, hospitals, places of employment, and community amenities. Every resident of Burlington benefits from construction projects at some point in their lives. The challenge is to strike an appropriate balance between neighbourhood considerations and the broader public interest in delivering much-needed housing and infrastructure efficiently.

WE HBA believes Burlington's existing framework already achieves that balance. Further restrictions on construction hours would increase costs, lengthen timelines, reduce productivity, and undermine ongoing efforts by all levels of government to improve housing affordability and housing supply.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge Council not to pursue additional restrictions on construction working hours and instead continue supporting policies that facilitate the timely delivery of housing and infrastructure while maintaining reasonable protections for neighbouring residents.

Thank you for your consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with Council and staff.

Sincerely,

Mike Collins-Williams, MCIP, RPP
Chief Executive Officer
West End Home Builders' Association