

From: [Betty Shore](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: New proposal for representation
Date: Thursday, 27 September 2018 12:16:02 PM

Dear Council members,

The new proposal for how council members will be elected does not bring the democratic representation that we have worked for, and that is our due. *I urge you to discard that proposal and plan instead for equitable representation for all the residents of this region.*

Democracy means one person, one vote. The new proposal gives disproportionate weight to the votes of rural people. We are all residents of this region, and we all have responsibility for decision-making about how we will care for the limited natural resources on which we and our descendants depend.

The new proposal contravenes the Local Electoral Act. To give more weight to rural votes, is to go back to voting eligibility depending on land ownership. We are all citizens, and this land and its resources are entrusted to our care for future generations.

The argument that rural people are producing the food, and the revenue that supports the rest of us is fallacious. Urban people contribute strongly to essential production in our region. Disproportionate representation by rural interests has allowed degradation of water and soil resources that the whole region depends on. Unsustainable use of resources has been funded by capital investment in ways that cannot continue to support the region.

Yes, food production is essential. Sustainable use of natural resources is also essential. And democratic representation is essential in order to ensure the resources of this region are used sustainably for all the people of this region.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Yours sincerely,
Betty Shore