

Developer says industry responds to demand for housing

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echoed Spatafora's comments about the statement.

"The province did not make this a provincial policy statement, which will make it law," he said. "Unless it comes up with an acquisition policy or strategy of some sort, there will probably be a lot of court cases going on."

But Glenn De Baeremaeker, president of Save the Rouge Valley System, called the statement a "scientifically

based" position that should be enough to convince the OMB to reject development.

"This is a magnificent first step," he exclaimed.

De Baeremaeker estimated the statement would put an end to 80 per cent of developers' applications, representing at least 25,000 houses on the moraine.

Stephen Kaiser, president of the Urban Development Institute, declined comment on the provincial statement, its effect or how much money his industry stands to lose if the OMB agrees with

it. He said developers have spent millions of dollars in putting together proposals for their applications.

He complained there is solid infrastructure to complement development on the Richmond Hill portion of the moraine.

"Growth will happen further afield. We need to provide homes for people to live in," he said. "We're not creating a demand. We're responding to a demand."

The development applications are slated to be heard on May 29.

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