

RE: Bill 171, Building Transit Faster Act, 2020

June 10, 2020

Dear Standing Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written material related to the proposed Bill 171, Building Transit Faster Act.

While it is necessary to expand the transit system throughout the Greater Toronto Area, I am gravely concerned by some of the abilities granted in this proposed Act. Specifically, I am concerned about the abilities to bypass environmental regulations and have expropriations occur without any hearings. As a new homeowner in Toronto, I would like to express my opinion that these development projects require full environmental reviews and public consultation at each step of the way in their development.

Lastly, it is imperative that a full analysis be conducted for the Ontario Line to evaluate the potential harm to the environment, community and local neighborhoods, as well as other unforeseen risk from the proposed above-ground portions of the Ontario Line. Putting the Ontario Line below ground is the right choice to keep vibrant Toronto communities and parks free excessive noise pollution and other emissions. I believe a full cost and environmental analysis, for the entire distance of the project must be conducted, rather than comparing a longer above-ground scenario (Ontario Line) with a shorter below-ground scenario (Relief Line South) as was done in the July 2019 - Ontario Line Initial Business Case. This does not portray an accurate comparison, and in order to have the support of local communities, a full analysis is required.

Thank You,

Meg Southee