

Kattar, Vanessa

From: Barb Bailie <bailiebarbj@gmail.com>
Sent: November 28, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: premier@ontario.ca; Phillips, Rod; Yurek, Jeff; Yakabuski, John; KGavine@conservationontario.ca; lruder@amo.on.ca; romachair@roma.on.ca
Subject: Schedule 6 of Bill 229

I am writing to request that Section 6 of Bill 229 be removed and brought back as a stand-alone bill on amending the Conservation Authority Act and the Planning Act, so that it can go through a full public process.

If this bill were to pass as it stands, then our watershed and wetland areas would be at great risk. Once these areas are built on, or altered for development, they can NEVER return to their natural state. It is a natural resource that is LOST FOREVER, where future generations will not be able to enjoy them, nor make use of the clean, pure water that they provide, something that is in an ever-increasing shortage. The wetlands and watersheds need to be protected as if they were our children, valuable and irreplaceable.

Past governments that have passed items hidden in larger bills, items that they know would not be popular with the public, have frequently paid the price at the next election. Think of Stephen Harper who tried this technique or Kathleen Wynne, who sold part of Ontario Hydro from under the feet of Ontarians, with no mandate to do so. They both lost the trust of the public, became extremely unpopular and lost the next election. Trust is a tenuous asset. Once lost, it is almost impossible to regain.

Mr. Premier, if you value your position, then do not be sneaky and untrustworthy. Is an action of the present day to appease some developers worth your future? We need to intensify our existing developed areas, not intrude on environmentally sensitive areas.

Regards,

Barbara Bailie, Mulmur, ON