

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 27, 2020 9:55 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 27681

Submitted on Fri, 11/27/2020 - 21:03

Application ID: 27681

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

Submit material only

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Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

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Paste submission

I would like to add my voice to growing calls to remove Schedule 6 in it's entirety from Bill 229. It is not made clear at all what relationship Schedule 6 has to 'protecting, supporting and recovering from COVID'. Perhaps there's an implication that Conservation Authorities, operating under their current mandate, are a hindrance to economic recovery? On the contrary, an organized network of floodplain and watershed management saves money in the long run and preserves valuable natural habitat for the current and future people of Ontario.

People that want to live, work, invest, and pay taxes to build Ontario.

I believe the current Ontario Government appointed Mr. Doug McNeil Ontario's special advisor on flooding, just in 2019. Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry John Yakabuski at the time said "We want to help Ontarians protect what matters most, and the Special Advisor will help better prepare our province for flooding in the future."

Mr. McNeil, an engineer and expert in water management from Manitoba praised Ontario's conservation authority model as being proactive and effective :

"Ontario has a long history of taking actions to keep people and property safe from the impacts of flooding through land use planning policies and mitigative activities. The development of the modern floodplain policy in Ontario, the watershed approach, the conservation authority model, and the flood standards have been extremely effective at reducing flood risks, especially in new greenfield development areas."

So what is going on here? Why is the Ontario Government putting this component which is actually about reducing environmental planning and protection in a budget bill? I see an active construction industry working through COVID, building highways, hospitals, transit lines and homes. There appears to be some hidden agenda. Please remove Schedule 6 now and make these intentions clear to the people of Ontario.

Best regards,
Beth Binnington