

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 30, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28096

Submitted on Mon, 11/30/2020 - 16:36

Application ID: 28096

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

Add your information

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

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

Linda Armstrong

Contact phone number

[289-829-0343](tel:289-829-0343)

Email address

linda.armstrong@mac.com

Paste submission

Dear Standing Committee,

We need our Conservation Authorities to manage our watersheds without political interference using the best scientific evidence and public input. Schedule 6 of Bill 229 proposes fundamental changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and its role in land use planning that would put us all in danger. Watersheds do not have municipal boundaries or political agendas. They do not understand urban planning or adhere to the

infrastructure requirements. They are influenced only by nature and have for centuries been the life blood of all human activity in Ontario including settlements, farms and recreation. But watersheds can also wreak havoc when human activity interferes with their natural flow causing flooding, erosion, polluted drinking water, underground sink holes and toxic habitats for plants and wildlife. Conservation authorities use hard scientific evidence to guide human development so that our most precious commodity, water, is protected to benefit all of us. Neither politicians nor corporations have the intrinsic knowledge or motivation to worry about the legacy that unmitigated human actions can leave behind. Neither has to think about drinking water quality after the next election, or habitat restoration once the building contract is finished. Please let the Conservation Authorities remain the prime gate-keeper of our watershed land use and help them to research, determine, investigate and enforce the far-reaching effects of any future development in these protected areas.

Thank-you,

Linda Armstrong

Farmer, consumer, urban and rural dweller, Ontario voter