

November 27, 2020

Sent via email: comm-financeaffairs@ola.org

Attn: Julia Douglas, Committee Clerk

Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
99 Wellesley Street West, Room 1405, Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A2

Re: Schedule 6 to Bill 229

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs:

I respectfully request that you strike-out Schedule 6 of Bill 229 in its entirety.

I write to you as an individual but also as a Registered Professional Planner who has worked within an Ontario municipality and three different Ontario Conservation Authorities over the past 16 years. I have spent over 12 years of my professional land use planning career implementing the *Conservation Authorities Act* and conducting *Planning Act* reviews through Memorandums of Understanding with various local and regional municipalities across the province including the Region of Waterloo, Region of York and Region of Durham. I can advise that Schedule 6 will not advance protection of people and property from flooding and erosion, but rather will add inappropriate red tape and added complexity to local decision-making, which will not help protect landowners our communities or watersheds more broadly.

Particularly offending is the proposed amendment to the *Planning Act* contained in section 26 of the Schedule. Since 1995, conservation authorities have been delegated the responsibility and painstaking task of reviewing site-by-site development proposals to ensure that provincial interests in protecting people and property from flooding and erosion are addressed in planning decisions. Removing conservation authorities' ability to appeal improper decisions to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal does nothing but hamstringing an essential safeguard for public safety in our communities and watersheds.

I urge the government to withdraw Schedule 6 from Bill 229 in its entirety to allow for further consultation and review to ensure that any changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and its associated legislation reflect the recommendations within the reports and studies already completed by this government such as Special Advisor Doug McNeil's Independent review of the 2019 flood events in Ontario. The value of the work carried out by conservation authorities is continually endorsed by most Ontario municipalities, especially those where most development in Ontario is taking place. Given this, I implore the committee to exercise its power with respect to this unfounded legislative proposal by withdrawing Schedule 6 from Bill 229 in its entirety at this time.

Sincerely,



Lisa-Beth Bulford, MSc, MCIP, RPP