

Kattar, Vanessa

From: Marcie Jacklin <mjacklin@brocku.ca>
Sent: November 26, 2020 11:11 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Subject: Schedule 6, Bill 229

Nov 26, 2020

Committee Clerk

Julia Douglas

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Dear Ms. Douglas

Please forward my comments to the Committee discussing Bill 229 Schedule 6.

Frankly I'm terrified about what the Ontario Government wants to do to our Conservation Authorities.

I want to take you back to the beginning of Conservation Authorities to explain why I am so scared. I was a baby in 1954 and my family lived in Toronto. When I was older my relatives often spoke about Hurricane Hazel and how terrifying it was. Toronto got 11 inches of rain in 48 hours. Eighty-one people were killed, some in their sleep when their homes were swept away. My Uncle told me that he watched a fire engine that was swept away in the current and all the men in the truck were killed. Thousands of people lost their homes. **THAT IS WHY CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES WERE PUT IN PLACE.** Do you want to risk these kinds of events for the people of Ontario?

In this time of climate change, increasing the risk of major flood events, polluting our drinking water, and creating drought events that will threaten our food supply, seems like a horrific choice. It is really more important to let developers get rich than to protect our watersheds and natural areas?

The costs of the impacts of this unscientific decision will be downloaded to the public. It is critical at this point in time that Ontario government needs to understand climate change and the importance of building resilient communities for the sake of all our children and grandchildren.

By not allowing experts to be on the Conservation Authority Boards the doors will be wide open for corruption. I suggest you read the Auditor General's report on the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to learn how bad things can be when a Board consisting of only politicians can be.

https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/specialreports/specialreports/NPCA_en.pdf. In addition, rumours at the time were that the Board intended to sell off Conservation Areas for a golf courses and housing developments. COVID has shown that these areas have been essential places for the residents of Ontario for their well-being.

Will the provincial government be financially responsible if developers built on a wetlands and residents suffer from wet basements or worse, lose their homes or their lives?

Schedule 6 is a dream for developers but a disaster for our communities. If passed there will be no guaranteed protection of water sources, watershed or natural environment.

I think the residents of Ontario deserve stronger Conservation Authorities with a Board of experts, knowledgeable staff, and appropriate funding.

For the sake of the residents of Ontario and their children and grandchildren, please remove Schedule 6 in its entirety from Bill 229.

Regards

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