

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Phillips,

I am concerned about some of the schedules in Bill 229. They are schedules 6 and 8. What these two schedules would do is reduce the power and independence of the conservation authorities.

Schedule 8 would allow more forests to be paved over and endanger wildlife. What we are seeing now as it is, are foxes, coyotes and sometimes bears in residents' subdivisions and roaming our streets. We are scared.

A lot of Ontario is covered by wetlands. What schedule 6 would do is give us less protection from floods and landslides. There would be more toxic soil dumped which would affect our environment and ability to breathe. My parents are seniors and live in a cottage in Port Stanley overlooking Lake Erie. Basements in that area are subject to floods. If repairs for flooded homes are downloaded to the municipalities to cover and take care of, that will lead to even more problems, as municipal governments are cashed strapped as it is.

If property taxes are lowered over the next few years, that would give municipalities even less revenue, causing more cuts to services.

Schedules 6 and 8 should not be implemented in a budget bill. Both schedules should be withdrawn from the budget bill now.

Sincerely,

Nima Basharat