

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



November 23, 2020

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 Professional Landscape Architect and member of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architecture, who works as the Director of Community Engagement at the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority in Oshawa. I have spent over 25 years of my professional career working for Conservation Authorities in the Greater Toronto Area and have supported the work of my colleagues in implementing the *Conservation Authorities Act*, specifically section 28 permits. I can advise in my opinion, that Schedule 6 will not advance protection of people and property from flooding and erosion, but rather adds inappropriate red tape and added complexity to local decision-making, which will not help protect landowners, communities, or watersheds more broadly.

Most surprising, 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 constrain an essential safeguard for public safety in our communities and watersheds.

I urge the government to withdraw Schedule 6 to allow for more fulsome consultation and I ask the committee to exercise its power with respect to this misguided and harmful legislative proposal by striking out Schedule 6 in its entirety.

Patricia Lowe

Patricia Lowe, BLA, OALA, CSLA