

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 29, 2020 10:22 AM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 27756

Submitted on Sun, 11/29/2020 - 10:03

Application ID: 27756

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

Which deadline would you like to submit your written material for?

[Written Submission Deadline: 7:00 p.m. \(EST\) on Wednesday, December 2, 2020](#)

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

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Paste submission

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November 29, 2020

Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Re. Bill 229, Section 6

To the Committee,

We are writing to you with the request that the provincial government remove schedule 6 from the proposed bill 229. Schedule 6 makes changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, thereby undermining the autonomy of Conservation Authorities and making way for development on public lands.

We must keep conservation lands for conservation. They are necessary as an eco-system for all the creatures that inhabit that land. They protect built up lands from floods. They also provide something millions of Ontarians do not have themselves: greenspace. For people in urban and suburban Ontario, greenspace provides recreation, relaxation, mental health, sanity. Most urban dwellers do not have adequate, easy access to the nature that should be our birthright. Every park, conservation area, crown land, greenspace, floodland should be protected, in perpetuity, for the use of all citizens.

Please put yourself in the position of the millions of people living in high density urban sprawl, who lack the means to enjoy the lakes of Ontario. All those citizens want to see conservation land retain the protection that it currently has, and not have it put at risk by the changes proposed in schedule 6. The irony of the proposed bill is that most MPPs creating it have their own private greenspace outside the city. They have access to cottages and lakes, yet they can decide to undermine the very limited greenspace that all citizens need.

We understand that bill 229 is raising revenue to pay for the Covid measures the province has taken. That is laudable, but conservation land is not the way to do it. Once that public land is taken away and developed, it will never come back.

Please remove schedule 6 from the proposed bill 229.

Thank you for your time,

Jane Kidd
Peter Ross