

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 30, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28016

Submitted on Mon, 11/30/2020 - 14:50

Application ID: 28016

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

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Which application would you like to submit?

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I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

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Comments to Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Recommend withdraw Schedule 6 from Bill 229

Conservation Authorities as they are now constituted are one of Ontario's greatest lines of defence against flooding and other water related natural disasters. Since 1946, when the Conservation Authorities Act was first

legislated by the Ontario government in response to the concerns of local citizens about degradation of the environment.(Conservation Ontario 2020). Since 1954, they have worked with Ontario municipalities to steer development away from flood-prone and other hazard lands. The CAs have amassed a large amount of knowledge and expertise in their staff and are organized in such a way as to provide these services efficiently and economically. They work directly with, and are largely supported by, municipal councils in their respective watersheds to meet local needs. (Conservation Ontario, 2020). As such, they are uniquely placed to mitigate the effects of weather-related damage on a local level that is expected to become more severe due to global warming.

Conservation Authorities also work with municipalities to provide other crucial services such as water monitoring, tree planting and protection of valuable natural water resources. Natural features such as wetlands, groundwater reserves, wooded valleylands and upland forests provide billions of dollars of ecosystem services to society (David Suzuki Foundation, 2008, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2009). The work that CAs do to protect and restore these natural features is vital to maintain the healthy water resources that we all need to live.

We in Ontario cannot afford to lose the services provided by this unique institution. They were created by former PC governments of this Province who worked with municipalities and citizens to meet the need for environmental protections. (The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2020). Please do not weaken the Conservation Authorities' abilities to keep Ontario citizens safe from water-related natural disasters, as well as their function as a front line defence against the destruction of natural features such as wetlands and ground water that provide us with abundant and clean drinking water. If there is one single thing that this government can do to make a difference in Ontario's fight against climate change, keeping, and even strengthening the Conservation Authorities is it.

The Canadian Encyclopedia, 2020. Premiers of Ontario. Available:
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/premiers-of-ontario>. Accessed: November 30, 2020.

Conservation Ontario, 2020. History of Conservation Authorities. Available:
<https://conservationontario.ca/conservation-authorities/about-conservation-authorities/history-of-conservation-authorities> Accessed: November 30, 2020.

David Suzuki Foundation, 2008. Ontario's Wealth, Canada's Future: Appreciating the Value of the Greenbelt's Eco-Services. By Sara J. Wilson, Natural Capital Research and Consulting,
Available: <https://davidsuzuki.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ontario-wealth-canada-future-value-greenbelt-eco-services.pdf>. Accessed: November 30, 2020.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2009. Estimating Ecosystem Services in Southern Ontario by Austin Troy and Ken Bagstad, Available: <http://longpointbiosphere.com/download/Environment/estimation-of-ecosystem.pdf>. Accessed: November 30, 2020.

Submitted by Susan May