

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 30, 2020 6:15 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28146

Submitted on Mon, 11/30/2020 - 18:09

Application ID: 28146

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

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

Claire Veenstra

Email address

claire@thuis.ca

Paste submission

Claire Veenstra
2 Hartfield Court
Toronto M9A 3E3

November 30, 2020

Chair,
Committee for Hearings on Schedule 6 of Bill 229

Dear Madam/Sir:

I am writing to express my deep concerns about Schedule 6 included in Bill 229 and request that it be removed from Bill 229.

The inclusion of Schedule 6 strips the Conservation Authorities of their authority and their ability to make decisions based on science and creates huge new powers for the Minister and the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal to allow developers to push through their projects. Schedule 6 takes away control over the protection of our precious wetlands, forests, wildlife habitat, and natural spaces from Conservation Authorities. Further, requiring that the board of a Conservation Authority be made up of elected municipal counsellors does not provide the expertise and long range view that are critical to decisions about our environment. I fail to understand why Schedule 6 is included in this bill. It appears that by burying this schedule in a budget bill, the government is avoiding public consultation that is ordinarily required on laws that impact the environment.

I believe it is important for Conservation Authorities to remain effective in being a vital line of defense for the natural spaces that mitigate flood risk, allow us to escape into nature and provide essential habitat for many species of wildlife, including endangered species. If we lose these spaces, we can't get them back.

Please remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229.

Respectfully,

Claire Veenstra

Would you like to add any other information?

Together with friends of the Christian Reformed Church of Toronto, I have serious concerns the Ford government's action on this issue. We must preserve our environment; we won't have another chance