

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 1, 2020 12:48 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28331

Submitted on Tue, 12/01/2020 - 12:44

Application ID: 28331

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

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Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

Danielle Allen

Paste submission

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act set out in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 that curtail the role of Conservation Authorities in watershed planning and management. The Ontario PC Government's piecemeal destruction of environmental protection and oversight in this province is a quick buck for developers at a massive environmental and social cost to future generations.

I am also deeply concerned that these proposed changes were brought forward in an omnibus budget bill, thereby over-riding my right to comment under the Environmental Bill of Rights. I request that you remove Schedule 6 in its entirety from Bill 229.

Schedule 6 perpetuates systemic racism against Indigenous peoples and impacts Aboriginal and treaty rights protected under S. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Ontario PC Government continues to neglect Canada's

commitments to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Schedule 6 precludes Indigenous communities from having decision-making authority over their Treaty lands in a true Nation-to-Nation relationship. Indigenous-managed lands foster higher biodiversity than non-managed lands. Indigenous peoples have a right to sit at the decision-making table AND they can play a significant role in land management throughout our province.

Ontario's Conservation Authorities are a unique and widely respected innovation. They provide a much-valued bridge across municipal boundaries to understand and address environmental concerns, such as flooding. Because they operate at the watershed level, they are ideally positioned to encourage science-based collaborative strategies and decision-making. Their vital role in land use planning and permitting must be retained to ensure that development does not put communities at risk from flooding and other climate change impacts through loss of wetlands, woodlands and farmland.

The changes proposed in Schedule 6 will reduce or constrain the mandate of Conservation Authorities, and are therefore contradictory to the interests of the people of Ontario who are facing enormous risks and costs as a result of climate change and ongoing biodiversity loss. The roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities are critical in protecting the lands, waters and wildlife which benefit businesses and communities across Ontario, and upon which our health and well-being ultimately depend.

I urge you to remove Schedule 6 in its entirety from Bill 229.