

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 30, 2020 10:39 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28226

Submitted on Mon, 11/30/2020 - 22:25

Application ID: 28226

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

Mr Douglas McKirgan

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Paste submission

Dear Members:

I am strongly opposed to the proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act through Schedule 6 of

Bill 229 which seek to curtail or prohibit the mandate of conservation authorities within Ontario. Please repeal Schedule 6 in its entirety and allow for more public input.

These proposed changes seek to:

- curtail planning reviews of development applications,
- limit the scope of conservation authorities,
- allow the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to directly approve development applications with little or no technical review from conservation authorities, and
- mandate the appointment of board members to be municipal elected officials only, giving rise to conflict of interest and compromised fiduciary duties

We value conservation authorities and all the critical work they do through:

- i. planning reviews of development applications to ensure development does not occur in or along flood plains, watersheds, wetlands, or our Natural Heritage Systems
- ii. educational programs and festivals, especially with the youth, about natural habitats, safe drinking water, endangered species, and climate change
- iii. advocating for sustainable forest management and wildlife habitat improvements
- iv. managing parks and green spaces allowing us to commune holistically with nature, and
- v. facilitating stewardship programs to help us all contribute toward climate resiliency

Would you like to add any other information?

Hiding these changes in a Bill responding to the COVID-19 emergency is deceitful and shameful. Changes of this magnitude deserve care and transparency.