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From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 30, 2020 5:54 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28136

Submitted on Mon, 11/30/2020 - 17:47

Application ID: 28136

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

Bill 229, Schedule 6 will make changes to the Conservation Authorities Act that will substantially weaken the regulatory authority of the conservation authorities.

Premier Ford has demonstrated that he hold the highest respect for scientists when it comes to the Pandemic, practicing open science, and adapting policy in light of new scientific information.

Please, also listen to science on the environment. Specifically, do not gut the “authority” of the Conservation Authorities. You would not send your grandchildren into a crowded room without wearing face masks.

Allowing the destruction of our natural environment, the lungs and circulatory system of our world, puts the future well-being of your grandchildren and even children at risk.

Gutting their authority is also economically unsound. First, as the research of my former student Prof. Dr. T. Filatova shows, participants in real estate markets do not correctly perceive the risk of development in flood plains, leading to too intensive development in vulnerable areas. More fundamentally, any mainstream economist recognizes that real estate markets work to maximize private values, but do not consider public values, especially the value of preserving environmental health for future generations. The market will not only leave too little land in natural areas, it will further harm habitat and flood plain protection through fragmented development, as every home seeks a view of a natural area.

The Grand River Conservation Authority is world renown for sound watershed management. There is effective cooperation now between the GCRA and local municipalities, working towards the common goal of current and longer-term public good. Let them do their good work. Listen to science—we know you can!