

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 1, 2020 12:15 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28321

Submitted on Tue, 12/01/2020 - 11:46

Application ID: 28321

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

Please consider my experiences in discussion of of Schedule 6 in Bill 229.

I am an ex-employee of a Conservation Authority. I worked for TRCA from 2017-2019. I had to leave due to lack of funding support for the activities my team were conducting. The TRCA serves some of the largest and most well-funded municipalities in Ontario. Despite the resources available to those municipalities; staff from City of Toronto, City of Vaughan, Region of Peel and others would routinely contact me and colleagues to request expertise and assistance with understanding the environmental implications of development proposals. Municipalities alone cannot give due diligence in protecting our environment and once initial developments have been permitted, there's no recovering the natural heritage assets.

Similarly, I know that the MECP (Ministry of the Environment CP) is very thinly staffed in this field. Their office of experts also do not have the capacity to give the necessary care to inform decision makers on how we can go about promoting growth in our region, whilst protecting natural heritage systems.

I have a network of contacts, friends and colleagues across N. America, from all sectors in land development and watershed management. I assure you that the Ontario model of provincially funded Conservation Authorities is the envy of all other provinces and US states across our region.

The new funding mechanism proposed will massively impact the CAs ability to provide much needed expertise and support to the Ministry and municipalities.

The proposal to allow CA decisions to be more readily overruled will allow far more land development in a economically driven, environmentally careless manner.

These are embarrassingly backward steps, in a supposedly forward-facing Bill about our future and growth.

PLEASE Take a moment to consider if the Ministry and the Municipalities have the expertise and capacity to take on the extra responsibilities being asked of them in this Article.

Thank you