

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: November 30, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28196

Submitted on Mon, 11/30/2020 - 20:30

Application ID: 28196

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

Megan Stansfield

Email address

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Paste submission

To whom it may concern,

I am a planning technician at a rural Conservation Authority, in Southwestern Ontario. I have a bachelor in Environmental Science and a Masters in Economics. I am well aware of the economic implications of increased policy and permitting required to protect environmental features. While the immediate economic impacts may

be undesirable, the long term economic impacts of NOT protecting these features is of much greater issue. Numerous studies and reports have been prepared justifying the protection of wetlands, for their use of flood storage and their biodiversity and ecosystems. Conservation Authority's protect these features and use scientific and historical information to ensure that life and property are protected from natural hazard features. Removing the CAs ability to act on behalf of scientific and historical information leads to life and property in potentially harmful areas. This leads to huge negative economic impacts in the long term. Prevention is always better than cure - and CAs work to prevent disastrous outcomes from potentially devastating natural hazards. Schedule 6 of Bill 229 is extremely short sighted and thoughtless. There has been no public review and the idea that the Minister can overrule decisions made by the CA negates all the research and work CAs have done this far to protect the natural resources of our province. Schedule 6 should be removed and consulted upon.

Additionally, it seems unfair that the Province would like to have so much oversight after recently slashing CAs budget. CAs main income is from municipalities who rely on them to make decisions that are right for the watershed, not to be overruled by the province.

I'd also like to add that the timing of this in relation to the controversial development in Pickering - specifically the TRCA being the only body holding up this development - seems a little corrupt.

I had more faith in our government than this, and it is extremely disappointing that this was proposed.

Megan