

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 1, 2020 4:31 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28411

Submitted on Tue, 12/01/2020 - 15:12

Application ID: 28411

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 Michael Hansen

Email address

mghansen@live.com

Paste submission

ATTN: STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RE: BILL 229 (Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the content and nature of Bill 229. Regarding the nature of the

business, I am concerned that the approval of this legislation will irrevocably harm Ontario and her people. Measures in this bill which strip environmental protections in favour of select industrial purposes endanger numerous places and species of ecological significance to Ontario and Ontarians. The great risk of permanent habitat loss for at-risk and endangered species as well as the knock-on consequences for the greater ecological health of Ontario and for the people who reside in or visit Ontario make the rushed passage of this bill an alarming breach of accountability. Further to this point, the misleading naming of the bill compared to the actual impacts of the legislation raises concerns about legislative trickery. It is of great importance to the health of our democracy that the function of legislation is clear.

I would like to express my support, in full, for the statement provided on December 1st by the Canadian Environmental Law Association. It is my belief that the process of consultation is important and that residents of Ontario should be consulted on changes to conservation and environmental protections. I cannot condemn in strong enough terms the roughshod nature of this legislative gambit. Bill 229 includes 44 different schedules, only some of which pertain to COVID-19 recovery. Fast-tracking legislation with so many disconnected elements in the midst of the pandemic smacks of deception.

It is unacceptable that major environmental protections roll backs would be enacted in the dark, secreted into legislation ostensibly about economic recovery. The government should immediately reverse course to ensure that the following can be undertaken:

- That sincere and meaningful consultation with First Nations communities and Ontarians be provided.
- Schedules 6 and 8 be removed from the Bill.
- Legislative debate respected as an essential component of representative democracy.
- Public participation in the democratic process be supported rather than prevented.

Sincerely,
Michael Hansen