



December 1, 2020

Julia Douglas | Committee Clerk
Legislative Assembly of Ontario | Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Procedural Services Branch
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

**Re: Bill 229: Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020
Schedule 6 – *Conservation Authorities Act***

At the November 19, 2020 regular meeting of the Otonabee Region Conservation Authority the Board received a presentation on the proposed amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act* as found in Schedule 6 of Bill 229.

While some of the proposed amendments are positive, other amendments have significant implications, fundamentally changing the role of a conservation authority and its ability to fulfill the purposes of the legislation.

Our most significant concerns are summarized as follows:

- The proposed amendments that reduce a conservation authority's role in plan review will have the detrimental affect of limiting an authority's ability to support municipalities to enhance and maintain a healthy natural environment, a critical attribute of any prosperous Ontario community.
- Several of the proposed section 28 permitting amendments will significantly reduce or impair a conservation authority's ability to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards.

- Many of the proposed amendments will have the affect of undermining accountability and by extension good governance.

We strongly urge that Schedule 6 from Bill 229 be removed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Andy Mitchell
Chairman of the Board

c.c. Member municipalities