

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 1, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28376

Submitted on Tue, 12/01/2020 - 14:51

Application ID: 28376

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?

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I am submitting material as an individual

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Comments to Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Re Schedule 8 of Bill 229

Remove Schedule 8 from Bill 229

The Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994 (CFSA) applies to two thirds of Ontario's land base. In conjunction, Schedule 8 proposes to remove protection for endangered species as set out in the Endangered Species Act,

2007 from lands covered by the CFSA. As a result, protection for endangered species is effectively removed from most of the Ontario landscape. Since protection for Endangered Species results in protection for all other species in that habitat, overall protection for non-human species and their habitat is no longer in effect. The result is huge loss of natural habitat and the concomitant natural resources that provide the ecosystem services that humans rely on for survival.

Provision 47.1 of Schedule 8 proposes to exempt forestry operations from mandatory considerations of species at risk protection and recovery laid out in ESA, 2007.

Provision 47.1(3) of Schedule 8 proposes to remove the power of the Minister to issue stop orders where there is imminent danger to a species at risk.

Section 69(1) of Schedule 8 proposes new powers for the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to order forestry operations to refrain or take action to minimize harm to SAR, but this has to be passed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and it reduces the level of protection from protection and promotion of recovery to simple minimize harm.(CELA, 2020)

Taken together with the province's commitment to double logging in public forests and permanently exempt forestry from environmental assessment requirements, the proposed changes remove what protections we had in place for natural areas on public land. (CELA 2020) In face of the biodiversity crisis and comments in the Auditor General's Report for 2020 pointing out that Ontario, unlike many other provinces, has no plans to expand its network of protected areas these moves on the part of the current government illustrate a need for reconsideration of all these moves. Refer to Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2009 to understand the value of ecosystem services provided to humanity by forests and other natural areas.

CELA, 2020. Letter to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs RE: Bill 229, 2020. By A. M. Lintner, Special Projects Council, and K. Blaise, Northern Services Council. Canadian Environmental Law Association, 2020. Available: <https://cela.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CELA-Bill-229-Schedules-6-and-8-Submission-to-Standing-Committee-Nov-2020-1.pdf> Accessed: December 1, 2020.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 2009. Estimating Ecosystem Services in Southern Ontario by Austin Troy and Ken Bagstad, Available: <http://longpointbiosphere.com/download/Environment/estimation-of-ecosystem.pdf>. Accessed: November 30, 2020.

Submitted by Susan May