

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 1, 2020 10:42 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28481

Submitted on Tue, 12/01/2020 - 22:20

Application ID: 28481

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020**

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I am submitting material as an individual

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Paste submission

I wish to make a general comment regarding schedule 6 of this omnibus bill, specifically as it relates to the diminishment of regulatory powers of the Conservation Authorities.

Ontario's natural environment is being degraded at an alarming rate. Deforestation, degradation of our waterways, destruction of habitat, encroachment on wilderness areas are all issues that contribute to our current

environmental and climate crisis. The regulatory oversight provided the conservation authorities working at the local level helps to ensure that development is sustainable and minimizes the degradation of our natural environment.

It is vital that our post-pandemic economic recovery in Ontario is centred on sustainable and responsible growth. I therefore urge the government to remove schedule 6, the appeal avenues, and ministerial override of the conservation authorities protections, from this omnibus bill. The conservation authorities have exercised their mandate and powers responsibly to date, and they should be allowed to continue to do so.