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Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A2

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

I would like to respectfully submit my support for the Canadian Environmental Law Association's (CELA) previously submitted written statement (November 27, 2020) as well as their committee presentation (December 1, 2020) regarding the removal of Schedules 6 and 8 from Bill 229. I feel that Schedule 6 will negatively impact the independence and meaningful impact of conservation authorities in Ontario, while Schedule 8 will severely undercut the important legislative powers of both the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* and the *Endangered Species Act, 2007*. I understand and respect that the province of Ontario is facing extreme challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, undermining previously enacted efforts that support sustainability is, in my opinion, a backwards approach to post-pandemic recovery.

In following CELA's recommendations, I ask that this Standing Committee reconsider Bill 229, specifically to withdraw Schedule 6 (proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act* and consequential amendments) and Schedule 8 (proposed changes to the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*) in their entirety from the Bill.

Sincerely, Ayla Morland