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From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 2, 2020 2:57 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28651

Submitted on Wed, 12/02/2020 - 14:34

Application ID: 28651

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](#)

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Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

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Paste submission

Conservation Authorities are unique in Ontario and work hard to protect our land, water, and citizens on a watershed basis. Their ability to prioritize what is best for an area based on environmental connectivity (e.g. watershed) is unique in North America and puts us at the cutting-edge of evidence based land management. The changes to the Conservation Authorities Act, proposed in Schedule 6 of Bill 229, would severely impact their ability to do their job. There are several key changes that are disturbing. First, that the changes would allow the

Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to circumvent conservation authorities when authoring permits, or second, that developers can appeal directly to the minister if conservation authorities deny their permit. This centralizes power to ministers, over-riding governing bodies that are specifically designed to oversee watersheds. Who then, is accountable to developments approved by the minister? The burden falls to municipalities and taxpayers. Third, changes reduce the enforcement provisions for conservation authorities, further weakening their ability to protect our watersheds.

Conservation authorities were created because of the devastation of natural disasters on Ontario citizens – weakening them sends a clear message that our government cares more about development, and temporary gain, than protection of its citizens. Further, centralizing power to fast-track development is dangerous. Business and environmental protection are not two opposing forces. In fact, with climate change, it is necessary for them to go hand in hand. When we build over wetlands not only do we lose important services, such as flood mitigation and water purification, we put property values at risk. There is already precedent regarding this, including in Oakville. By paving over wetlands we increase the likelihood of damaging taxpayers property, for example. Wetlands diminish the destruction of flooding, which has emerged over the last decade as the costliest extreme weather disaster affecting Canadians. On July 8, 2013, extreme rainfall in the GTA resulted in \$999.5 million in losses. Just five years later, another GTA summer rainstorm resulted in over \$80 million dollars in damage. Across the country, property and casualty insurance payouts are skyrocketing, exceeding \$1 billion a year in 11 of the last 12 years, with most of the increase attributed to water-related losses. This has direct financial consequences for Ontario taxpayers such as higher municipal insurance rates, higher home insurance premiums, devaluation of housing, higher mortgage delinquencies and more class action law suits due to flood risks and property devaluation. Wetlands, however, reduce the magnitude and speed of flooding by storing surface water, decreasing over land flow, and enhancing infiltration and evaporation. In rural and urban areas, intact wetlands reduce the damage of flooding and can save 29 – 38% of associated damages.

Please remove schedule 6 from Bill 229

Would you like to add any other information?

https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Under-One-Umbrella-1.pdf?utm_source=kitchenertoday.com&utm_campaign=kitchenertoday.com&utm_medium=referral