

Advocacy letter in concern of Bill 229 and the Conservation Authority

From: David Munoz Rodriguez /// 1258 Royal Drive

Dear Members of Committee

My name is David Munoz Rodriguez and I am a grade 11 student here in Peterborough. I was lucky enough to have one of my school trips allow me to work hand in hand with ORCA on different occasions. I got to see firsthand the benefits of their work while we planted trees in a stormwater management pond and other areas. I believe that these activities have a huge impact on who we are as a city. This bill reduces the ability of a conservation authority to protect people and property from natural hazards. This paired with their authority to protect the natural environment is why they exist and this bill changes that. It will undermine good governance and it inserts the province between the municipality members and the conservation authority.

This bill will change the roles that had already been placed and completely undermines any authority that they had before. It will do some of the following:

- Restrict powers to enter property and expropriate property
- Allows the minister to set the amount of any fee and the method of calculating it
- It stops the Authority's ability to undertake programs and services and limits them to conserve, restore, develop, and manage natural resources through the provision of mandatory, municipal and other programs and services.

This bill will give the Minister the ability to exclude or restrict an authority's plan review service on behalf of the municipality, and it has removed the authority's ability to even appeal a Planning Act decision. The minister can even remove the requirement of an authority's permit and replace it with a Minister issued permit. This leaves the Conservation Authority in a place of no power on the issues it was created to solve. If we look at the bigger picture what this bill is essentially doing is narrowing the local control while at the same time enhancing Provincial control to fill the gap. If this isn't fixed, we will have no say or way to prevent our natural resources from being drained and developed.

I thank you for the time you have taken to read this and I truly hope you take it into consideration.

Sincerely

David Munoz Rodriguez

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