

Douglas, Julia

From: Neil Thomson <president@kanatabeaverbrook.ca>
Sent: December 1, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Clark, Steve; Phillips, Rod; Yurek, Jeff; Yakabuski, John; Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs; Fullerton, Merrilee
Subject: Opposition to Bill 229 weakening Conservation Authority ability to protect people, property and environment

Our Community (west suburb of Ottawa) is adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas, including watersheds and forests native to Ontario. As a area of Ontario built on directly on the Canadian Shield, our green spaces and forests are fragile and our dependency on these area for supporting wildlife and proper drainage and flood mitigation is critical.

Property development in the last 70 years has benefited from the in-depth understanding and guidance by our local conservation authorities providing ample space for responsible development, without destroying the homes for wildlife, forests and wetlands. Many of our residents moved here explicitly due to the responsible management of our environment and virtually everyone who has lived here for any length of time has grown to enjoy and value those environmentally responsible positions.

Decreasing the impact of Conservation Authorities is a mistake that will do damage to our communities for the sole benefit of lowering the cost for developers so they can make a larger profit. West of Ottawa has many locations where the environmental impact can be minimal, but it takes more care and more thoughtful development - which costs \$\$\$.

The KBCA observes that Developers spend more time and \$\$\$ attempting to circumvent being environmentally responsible than putting environmental considerations front and center.

We would rather that effort go into minimizing the Red tape not by eliminating or reducing the need for environmental assessments, but reducing the multi-department issues internal to the Ontario agencies and better coordination with Federal and Municipal departments.

The current path NOT responsible Government.

Most problems have simple solutions.
The simple way is hard.
The easy path is full of land mines.
~US Army officer training credo~

Thank you,

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