

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 2, 2020 2:03 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28631

Submitted on Wed, 12/02/2020 - 11:32

Application ID: 28631

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](#)

Add your information

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

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

Ms Kelly Gibson

Contact phone number

[9057184408](#)

Email address

kelly.b.gibson@gmail.com

Paste submission

I oppose Schedule 6 and 8 of Bill 229 and propose that they be removed from the bill.

Conservation Authorities provide services on the watershed level and are not purely municipal entities. By limiting board membership to only municipal councillors a great deal of expertise will be lost. In order to serve the watershed and protect it from harmful development, CAs need input from experts in science and environmental protection. CAs are not confined by municipal boundaries and they should not be treated as such.

The province claims this bill will save money and streamline permit approvals but has proposed that rejected permits can be appealed to the Ministry. This would undermine the CAs authority and result in a more lengthy and costly approval process. As well, it would put the decision on permits in the hands of province rather than those of the municipalities whose interests the province claims to be protecting with this bill. The province makes very little financial contribution to CA budgets, yet is proposing to have the final say in CA decisions.

All of the proposed changes in Schedule 6 support the interests of developers, not those of CAs, municipalities, or Ontario residents. I contacted my MPP regarding this issue and his response stated that CAs, municipalities, environmental organizations, etc were consulted on potential changes to the Conservation Authorities Act however no report on these consultations was ever made public. There is no evidence of support for these proposed changes from either CAs or their member municipalities.

Finally, I oppose Schedule 8 of Bill 229 which proposes exemptions from the Endangered Species Act for forestry operations in Crown forests. This would result in less protection for Endangered Species which are already in dangerous decline even with the current restrictions.