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Subject: **Schedule 6 of Bill 229**

Summary: Schedule 6 of Bill 229 is an unwarranted, unwise and deeply flawed piece of legislation and should be removed altogether from this omnibus bill. It is contrary to the public interest because it will hamper expert and public comment and would enable and benefit careless developers and their consultants. If the objective is to speed the assessment of adequate or superior quality development proposals, CA's can tell you much better ways to achieve this.

Commentary: 1 – CA's are Cost Effective Problem Prevention:

I grew up near Terra Cotta in the 1950's, before conservation authorities and witnessed repeated rescues of families from the Credit River flood plain at public expense. Once the CVCA was in place this needless suffering and public expense soon stopped.

Conservation Authorities and watershed management are fundamental and efficient ways to prevent expensive and tragic problems in a watershed. One only has to look at places that lack watershed and hazard land management such as Huston, Texas or in Calgary near the Bowe River to floods to see, how individuals and developers will build in hazard lands or damage downstream water quality if left without expert and objective oversight. Damages caused by

poorly planned development are born by individuals or the public long after the developers depart. Ontario is wise to have these organizations in place and should support rather than curtail their valuable contribution.

Commentary 2 – Omnibus Bills should Not Include (largely) Unrelated Large Matters

Restricting the Conservation Authorities under the guise of “COVID Recovery” is pretext to avoid debate and public comment on an important public interest. If the government wants to modify this important Ontario institution, it should do so as a separate bill – and face the consequences rather than hiding it in a finance omnibus.

Commentary 3 – Ending CA’s ability to carry out Conservation Work Not Funded by the Province

When communities want to carry out and fund conservation work in their region and fund that good work, the Province should not stand in the way. CA’s are often in the best position to deliver such work that benefit community as well as the broad public interest.

Commentary 3 – If you want faster answers – Ask the CA’s

The Conservation Authorities can often provide answers faster, but they have limited resources and other challenges (including ill-advised and marginal developers). If the province wants to speed things up – sit down and work out solutions with the CA’s. They know where the roadblocks are and know how to remove or reduce them.

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