

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 2, 2020 5:15 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28816

Submitted on Wed, 12/02/2020 - 16:56

Application ID: 28816

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

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Paste submission

I am providing my comments today as an individual. I respectfully request that schedule 6 of Bill 229 be withdrawn in its entirety.

It would introduce a number of amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act that would increase the risk from natural hazards and set Ontarians back in their economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. My specific concerns include:

- the proposed amendment to the Planning Act that will prevent CAs from appealing land use decisions as a public body or as a landowner
- changing the Duty of Members to not represent the interests of the conservation authority and the watershed
- granting the Minister the ability to issue S. 28 permits without appropriate access to watershed data. Note as well that no technical guidelines exist to independently support the Minister's decision-making with regard to Section 28 permits
- tying the conservation authorities up in unnecessary appeal processes where the existing science-based appeal process is working adequately and much faster than what is included in this proposal
- removing the ability of conservation authorities to bring experts onto a site and to monitor the implementation of their section 28 permits.

In short, I think that the proposed amendments represent a significant threat to watershed management and to the overall prosperity of Ontarians. These changes will significantly reduce conservation authorities' ability to manage the watershed, resulting in people unnecessarily being put in harm's way. While this Bill is being represented as an opportunity for economic recovery I strongly suggest that it will have the opposite effect - needlessly costing the economy millions in property damages, infrastructure repair, insurance payouts and lost working hours.

Once again, I respectfully request that schedule 6 be withdrawn in its entirety. Work with the conservation authorities, municipalities and other stakeholders on concrete proposals that can be delivered at the watershed level for the betterment of Ontarians.