

Amarjot Sandhu, MPP Chair
Julia Douglas, Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
99 Wellesley St. W.
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Queens Park
Toronto, Ontario
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163 Humbercrest Blvd.
Toronto, ON. M6S 4L5
November 30th 2020

**Re: Bill 229 Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures)
2020 Schedule 6, Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning
Act**

I wish to convey my concerns, prior to the Third and final reading of Bill 229.

I have, for the past twenty five years, as a member of the Public, attended the Meetings of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. (formerly the MTRCA). As a property owner and conservationist I have had dealings with the Crowe River and Moira River CAs as well as the Credit Valley CA and the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

I am even familiar with P.J. Hare's documents for the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests on the preservation of Woodlots and farming practices necessary for restoration of clean water. Nor do I forget the overwhelming public demand for Conservation Authority Powers enabling the provision of Flood Control and ravine and greenspace protection, following the disastrous flood of October 1954, which took 81 lives in Ontario.

Please remove Schedule Six from Bill 229. It was the overwhelming will of the People of Ontario that the Conservation Authorities have the established powers of protection, watershed management and planning to preserve the public's health, safety and environment. This Public Will has not substantially altered in the intervening sixty six years. There is a Public expectation of the continuing "trust" placed upon the Conservation Authorities, which Schedule Six would negate. I adjure you to remove it from this legislation.

As established, Ontario's Conservation Authorities Act remains one of the finest in the world, from the standpoint of Public and environmental protection. It is particularly valuable in the face of Climate Change and Global Warming.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,

Madeleine McDowell