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Application ID: 28741

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020**

Full name

Mary Gartshore

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Bill 229 Schedule 6 and Schedule 8

Schedule 6

We need Conservation Authorities to have the power to deny development projects where they may harm wetlands, source water or cause flooding. They have the most scientific knowledge with respect to watersheds. The role of Conservation Authorities to protect water under a climate change scenario from inappropriate development is paramount. Furthermore, the science-based abilities of Conservation Authorities to evaluate damage to ecosystems and accordingly issue or deny a permit is essential. This role should not be interfered with by a Cabinet Minister who may be busy enough in his or her own role. Please withdraw Schedule 6 from Bill 229 as there has not been enough public input or scientific scrutiny.

Schedule 8

Most of the forests in Ontario belong collectively to Ontario citizens and are governed by the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Most of these forests are the prime habitat or potential habitat for Ontario's Species At Risk (SAR) and Ontario's biodiversity. Forestry activities are operating in habitats for Species At Risk and should be responsible for protection of Species At Risk. Schedule 8 exempts forestry operations from protecting Species At Risk and nullifies the Species At Risk Act under forestry operation on crown lands (our lands). Repairing damages rather than just being more careful of Species At Risk would be prohibitively expensive if even possible. Furthermore Schedule 8 has not had enough public input or has it been subjected to modern science. Please remove Schedule 8 from Bill 229.

Would you like to add any other information?

no