

Douglas, Julia

From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: December 2, 2020 5:48 PM
To: Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 28861

Submitted on Wed, 12/02/2020 - 16:57

Application ID: 28861

Submitted values are:

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

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I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

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Paste submission

December 2, 2020

Re: Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020

Dear Standing Committee members;

Please find below my comments and recommendations concerning; I am recommending that Schedule 6 (proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and consequential amendments) should be withdrawn in

it's entirety from Bill 229.

I am very concerned that the timelines for comments provide a lack of opportunity for meaningful public consultation on changes to the Conservation Authorities Act.

I have significant concerns regarding the lack of public opportunity to review and provide comments under the ERO which puts a significant onus on ministries to ensure that all public comments are received. for meaningful public input on changes to the CAAct

I would take this opportunity to recommend that Schedule 6 be removed and or reworked because the proposed changes to the CAAct are not administrative budget-related amendments but rather are significant amendments impacting public/wildlife health and environmental policy and for which adequate and specific public consultation has not occurred.

The health of Ontarians is specifically tied to healthy natural systems. The work of conservation authorities has supported for decades the protection of our natural environments, ecosystems, wildlife, surface water, drinking water and groundwater source protection thus ensuring health protection through healthy natural environments Ontario's Conservation Authorities are mandated to undertake watershed-based programs to protect people and property from flooding and other natural hazards, and to conserve natural resources for economic, social and environmental benefits. Their science and watershed-based approach helps inform decision-making about where to put development, how to protect water quality and quantity, as well as how to conserve, restore and rehabilitate important natural systems such as forests, wetlands, soils, escarpments, moraines and lakes. These components of a healthy, functioning ecosystems are vital to human health and well-being, and to building climate resiliency.

Removing conservation authorities' status as independent public bodies in land use planning will set integrated watershed management back many decades.

I am very concerned that the proposed amendments will have an impact on our climate and increase flooding and other climate-related health risks, and allow accelerated destruction of wildlife habitat, wetlands, woodlands, contribute to a loss of source water and drinking water protection initiatives (Post Walkerton Tragedy- 2000) and natural spaces on which human and animal health depends.

Conclusion and Recommendation;

I recommend and urge the standing committee that Schedule 6 (proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and consequential amendments) be withdrawn in it's entirety from Bill 229.

Yours truly
Ralph Stanley

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