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Application ID: 28506

Submitted values are:

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

Full name

Mr Rohan Hakimi

Paste submission

Hello, I am asking that Schedule 6 be removed from Bill 229 for these reasons:

1. Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act will allow the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to take over and decide a development permit application in place of a conservation authority, even before the conservation authority renders a decision. Conservation authorities are science-based, non-partisan agencies. Granting permitting authority to the Minister will take science out of the equation, effectively politicizing the permitting process and allowing for development that may be considered unsafe or damaging to the natural environment.
2. Proposed changes will stop conservation authorities from independently appealing land use planning decisions affecting hazards. This can put more people and infrastructure at risk.
3. The legislation opens two new avenues of appeal and sets out legislated timelines which actually results in a more complicated process expected to take longer and be more costly.
4. The act directs conservation authority board members to act only on behalf of the municipality they represent rather than acting on behalf of the watershed and its residents. This contradicts recent recommendations by Ontario's Auditor General. Members need to think beyond municipal boundaries to collectively manage and protect watershed resources. Water will always flow down hill and doesn't stop flowing at municipal boundaries.