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Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Procedural Services Branch
99 Wellesley Street West
Room 1405, Whitney Block
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Attention: Clerk of the Committee

My name is Solomon Kightley, and I am a high school student in Peterborough and I am submitting this letter in response to the proposed changes for Conservation Authorities in Bill 229.

My concern is that Bill 229 will limit the power of local Conservation Authorities and transfer more control to the Province of Ontario. I am concerned because local Conservation Authorities act to protect and preserve natural habitat with a strong locally informed lens, often developed by local experts with connection to the land and space and commitment to protect and plan for protection of natural spaces. Bill 229 is specifically of concern because:

- Bill 229 limits the ability of local Conservation Authorities to develop programs and services that are made to conserve, restore, develop and manage natural resources to merely working on mandatory, municipal and other provincial interests.
- Reduces the ability of a Conservation Authority to protect people and the property as informed by local issues. Bill 229 proposes that the Minister will change the role of the authority to issue permits and replace with a minister issued permit, further narrowing the role of the Conservation Authority and giving more formal power and responsibility to the Province
- Interrupts the relationship between the conservation authority and its members of the municipalities. Bill 229 proposes that the Minister may appoint an administrator of conservation lands and direct them on what to do. This is of concern because the duty of a member will be to act on behalf of their

municipalities instead of the authority, thus confusing the mandate to protect natural spaces when conflicts around land use come up.

Thank you for receiving my concerns about Bill 229. I look forward to learning more about how the government of Ontario will work to improve and expand the role of Conservation Authorities instead of further narrowing them.

Sincerely,

Solomon Kightley