

TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

REQUEST TO REMOVE SCHEDULES 6 and 10 FROM BILL 245

Submitted by

Ms. Linda Heron

22 Brumell Ave.

York, ON M6S 4G4

Re Bill 245, Schedules 6 and 10:

I strongly support the removal of Schedules 6 and 10 from Bill 245. There is no evidence to prove the value of it for Ontarians.

In fact, it is against public interest, for the following reasons.

AMALGAMATION: Amalgamating the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (LPAT), the Mining and Lands Tribunal, the Conservation Review Board, the Board of Negotiation, and the Environmental Reviews Tribunal (ERT) is counter-productive as explained in the points below-

THE NECESSITY FOR SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE: The many areas of these tribunals and boards require knowledge specific to that area. Allowing anyone of the combined tribunal to pass judgement without the proper specialized qualifications required, means poorer and less credible decisions.

PARTISAN AND UNDUE INFLUENCE: There is understandable concern for partisanship, and undue influence on these agencies, as examples the appointment last year of an ex-lobbyist to the land use tribunal, and the reduced number of ERT members from 12 to 4 in the last 2 years.

APPEAL DISMISSAL: The provision to summarily dismiss appeals without hearings further affects the quality and credibility of the process.

ELIMINATION OF MINISTERIAL APPEALS: Lastly, eliminating Ministerial appeals under Ontario environmental laws is contrary to public interest. The only recourse is court action which reduces the efficiency of the court system

Therefore, I request that Schedules 6 and 10 be removed from Bill 245.

Yours truly,

Linda Heron

22 Brumell Ave.

Toronto ON M6S4G4