



November 27, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Minister Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
MPP Stephen Crawford
MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos

Subject: Bill 229, Schedule 6

Dear Premier Ford, Honourable Ministers, and Members of Parliament:

We Love Oakville, in partnership with Oakvillegreen Conservation Association, Halton Environmental Network, and Save Glen Abbey, would like to express our support of the motions to protect conservation authorities with respect to Schedule 6 of Bill 229 that were recently passed by the Town of Oakville and Halton Region.

We Love Oakville was established in 2019 as a grassroots non-partisan organization comprising residents' associations throughout Oakville to collaborate on issues that would negatively impact our community or initiatives that would benefit us.

We strongly oppose proposed amendments to the Conservative Authorities Act through Schedule 6 of Bill 229 that curtails or prohibits the mandate of conservation authorities.

We value our conservation authorities' critical roles undertaken in accordance with science-based evidence in:

- planning services to provincial agencies and municipalities regulating or guiding development in or adjacent to watersheds and Natural Heritage Systems,
- protecting and preserving of our natural environment, the Greenbelt, Natural Heritage Systems, urban green spaces, watersheds, and wetlands,
- connecting the public, especially youth, with the environment through educational programs,
- actively managing, guiding, and implementing regulations to create a sustainable and climate resilient Ontario, and
- protecting water resources through flood plain management and ensuring access to safe drinking water for the health and safety of all Ontarians.

We are particularly concerned with the provisions in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 which seek to:

- curtail or prohibit the mandate of conservation authorities specifically by:
 - reducing the scope of planning reviews,
 - imposing deadlines which undermine a full and comprehensive technical review of development applications,
 - allowing developers to challenge application fees set out by conservation authorities to facilitate comprehensive technical review,
 - prohibiting conservation authorities from appealing planning decisions to the LPAT or participating in the appeal process,
- allow the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry the ability to approve development applications directly without technical review and input from conservation authorities, and
- mandate the appointment of members to be duly elected municipal officials only, giving rise to conflict of interest and compromising the fiduciary role of board members.

As taxpaying voters, we understand the Province's mandate for efficient governance; however, transparent public consultation regarding this process and all public policy processes is the cornerstone of our democracy with which all levels of government have been entrusted. This has been minimal during the consultation process for Schedule 6 of Bill 229 which is gravely concerning considering the overarching reach of this omnibus bill.

We thank you for your consideration of our submission and strongly urge you to strike out, in its entirety, Schedule 6 from Bill 229 and to seek collaboration with all stakeholder groups and the public on the best way forward for Ontario and our environment. After all, the decisions we make today not only affects us, but also inhibits future generations to benefit from access to safe drinking water, a rich biodiversity, and a sustainable ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Douglas McKirgan, Chair We Love Oakville

Carolyn McMinn, President Trafalgar Chartwell Residents` Association

Elizabeth Chalmers, President Joshua Creek Residents` Association

Nancy Robertson, President Chartwell-Maple Grove Residents Association

Shelley Thornborrow, President Bronte Village Residents Association

Pamela Knight, President Coronation Park Residents Association

George Niblock, President Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association

Bob Brabers, President Clearview Oakville Community Alliance

Nav Nanda, President North Oakville Ward 7 (NOW7) Residents Association

Karen Brock, President Oakvillegreen Conservation Association

Lisa Kohler, Executive Director Halton Environmental Network

Bill McKinlay, Spokesperson Save Glen Abbey

cc: Chair Gary Carr, Halton Region

Mayor Rob Burton, Town of Oakville

Ward 1 Councillors Sean O`Meara, Beth Robertson

Ward 2 Councillors Cathy Duddeck, Ray Chisholm

Ward 3 Councillors Dave Gittings, Janet Haslett-Theall

Ward 4 Councillors Allan Elgar, Peter Longo

Ward 5 Councillors Jeff Knoll, Marc Grant

Ward 6 Councillors Tom Adams, Natalia Lishchyna

Ward 7 Councillors Pavan Parmar, Jasvinder Sandhu

Hassaan Basit, President & CEO Conservation Halton

Deborah Martin-Downs, CAO Credit Valley Conservation Authority