



Legal & Legislative Services
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Town of Aurora
 100 John West Way, Box 1000
 Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

February 24, 2015

DELIVERED BY E-MAIL

ALL ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of February 10, 2015
 Motion (e) Councillor Thompson; Re: Bill 52, the Protection of Public
 Participation Act**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its Council meeting held on February 10, 2015 and in this regard Council adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has recently introduced “Bill 52, Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014”; and

WHEREAS Bill 52 seeks to amend the *Courts of Justice Act*, the *Libel and Slander Act* and the *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* in order to protect expression on matters of public interest; and

WHEREAS Bill 52 is commonly referred to as Anti-SLAPP legislation and is intended to enact many of the recommendations put forward by the Anti-SLAPP Advisory Panel of 2010; and

WHEREAS SLAPP litigation, an acronym for Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, is a tactic which is often viewed as a means to silence, intimidate and deter people from participating in discussions on matters of public interest; and

WHEREAS the Province has stated that the ability to freely participate in public discussion about matters of public interest, without fear of retribution, is fundamental to a fair and democratic society.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Town of Aurora express its support for Bill 52 which should help protect and encourage freedom of expression on matters of the public interest and discourage the use of the courts in ways that unduly limit that freedom; and

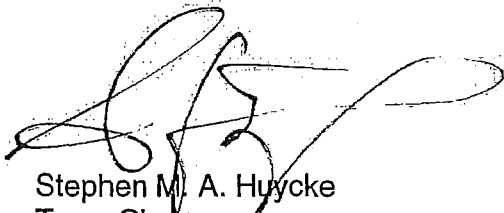
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Mayor be requested to write a letter and forward this resolution to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, Chris Ballard, MPP for Newmarket-Aurora, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Clerk be requested to circulate this resolution to all other municipalities in Ontario to request endorsement of this resolution be sent directly to the Government of Ontario.

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Huycke', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Stephen M. A. Huycke
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

SH/lb