



Office of the Regional Chair | Jim Bradley

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November 24, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford
 Premier of Ontario
 Room 281
 Legislative Building, Queen's Park
 Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Sent by e-mail

Dear Premier,

**RE: BILL 229 SCHEDULE 6 – CHANGES TO THE CONSERVATION
 AUTHORITIES ACT**

At its meeting of November 19, 2020, Regional Council passed the following motion:

1. That the Region of Niagara **SUPPORT** the motion from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Board of Directors and the request to the Government of Ontario to remove the proposed Schedule 6 from Bill 229 and continue to work with conservation authorities on regulations proposed under previous Bill 108 to achieve desired improvements in the planning process; and
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to the Premier, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Auditor General; partner municipalities; Conservation Ontario, local area MPPs and AMO, voicing the Region of Niagara's position.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has been committed to keeping the environment, people and property of our watershed safe from natural hazards for the past six decades with a mandate to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources in our watershed.

The proposed amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act as outlined in Bill 229 Schedule 6 introduce changes and new sections that could significantly impact conservation authorities' mandate of watershed-based natural resource management; alter good governance standards recommend by Ontario's Auditor General; and, in the case of the Region of Niagara, weaken NPCA's ability to serve its municipal partners and communities in the protection from natural hazards and conserving natural resources through its planning, permitting and enforcement activities.

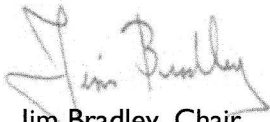
Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

In addition, the proposed amendments have the potential to add significant delays in the planning and permitting process, add costs for all parties involved, and ultimately have the potential for significant impacts on Province's ability to provide flooding and natural hazards management contrary to the Special Advisor's Report on Flooding and Ontario's Flooding Strategy.

Over the past few years, the NPCA has invested significantly in establishing very high standards of governance, transparency, accountability and progressive enforcement based on the Ontario Auditor General's recommendations.

On behalf of Niagara Regional Council, I appreciate your kind consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Bradley, Chair
Niagara Region

cc: Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hon. John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Bonnie Lysyk, Auditor General for Ontario
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP, Niagara West
Jeff Burch, MPP, Niagara Centre
Jennifer (Jennie) Stevens, MPP, St. Catharines
Wayne Gates, MPP, Niagara Falls
Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Wayne Emmerson, Chair, Conservation Ontario
Kim Gavin, General Manager, Conservation Ontario
City of Hamilton, Clerks Office
Haldimand County, Clerks Office

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