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Member of Conservation Ontario

November 18, 2020

CLOCA File: ASLA3

Re: Bill 229 An Act to implement Budget measures and to enact, amend and repeal various statutes

The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority's Board Meeting held November 17, 2020 passed the following resolution (Res. #76).

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act

WHEREAS the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authorities' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications

WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without CA watershed data and expertise

WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs

WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a CA board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value the conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

THAT CLOCA's Board of Directors request that the Government of Ontario remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229.

AND FURTHER THAT the Boards resolution and a copy of this report be forwarded 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, MPPs in our jurisdiction, and CLOCA's partner municipalities.

CARRIED

Chris Darling, MCIP, RPP
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Healthy watersheds for today and tomorrow.



Distribution list:

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