



December 16, 2020

Premier Ford
Office of the Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Hon. John Yakabuski
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Whitney Block
Suite 6630, 6th Floor
99 Wellesley St. W
Toronto ON M7A 1W3

Dear Premier Ford & Honourable Yakabuski:

At its meeting held on December 10, 2020, Dufferin County Council discussed the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act through Bill 229.

We as a Council and community are extremely concerned that *Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act* 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. **In our opinion, the purpose and intent of this Bill is simply wrong, and does not move things in a correct direction.** To be clear, Dufferin County relies on the expertise of the 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.

Equally of significant concern to us, these proposed changes will impact Ontario's ability to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change by undermining the work of conservation authorities to keep development out of high risk areas and protect natural infrastructure.

The County of Dufferin is imploring the Province to:

- Work with conservation authorities to address their concerns, and remove Schedule 6 from Bill 229 entirely. Period.
- Delay any enactment of clauses that affect municipal interests, which Bill 229 certainly does.
- Provide a longer transition period up to December 2022 for non-mandatory programs to enable coordination of conservation authority-municipal budget processes.
- Respect the current conservation authority/municipal relationships, embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

I trust that the County of Dufferin's opinion of and response to proposed changes through Bill 229 are clear. I am available to discuss this further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Darren White
Warden

Cc Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sylvia Jones, MPP
Dufferin Clerks

