

Notice of Motion

Submitted by: Councillor Prendergast

Date Submitted: 5/11/2025

Meeting Date: 5/12/2025

Subject: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Proposed motion

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and

Whereas the Town of Orangeville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Town of Orangeville:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
 - Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.

Background Information

I intend to bring forward a motion at our May 12 Council meeting regarding Bill 5: *Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*. Given that the province’s public comment

period for this legislation closes on May 17, I will be requesting that Council waive notice so the motion can be considered in time for our feedback to be submitted.

The motion supports the need for housing and economic development but raises concerns about provisions in Bill 5 that may override local planning authority and weaken environmental protections. I believe it's important for Orangeville to clearly state our position and urge a balanced approach to growth—one that protects our environment and respects municipal planning.

[Link to Bill 5](#)