

<<Your Name>>

<<Your Address>>

Dear Minister Phillips,

cc: Minister Clark, Minister Yakabuski and Minister Yurek

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act set out in Schedule 6 of Bill 229 that curtail the role of Conservation Authorities in watershed planning and management. These proposed changes were brought forward in a budget bill, thereby over-riding my right to comment under the Environmental Bill of Rights. I request that you remove Schedule 6 in its entirety from Bill 229.

Ontario's Conservation Authorities are a unique and widely respected authority introduced in 1946 to address environmental concerns such as flooding. They operate at the watershed level and make decisions using science-based collaborative strategies. Their vital role in land use planning and permitting must be retained to ensure that development does not put communities at risk flooding and other climate change impacts through loss of wetlands, woodlands and farmland.

The changes proposed in Schedule 6 will restrict the mandate of Conservation Authorities. Schedule 6 of Bill 229 is not in the best interests of the people of Ontario. We will be facing enormous risks and costs as a result of climate change and ongoing biodiversity loss. The roles and responsibilities of Conservation Authorities are critical in protecting the lands, waters and wildlife which benefit businesses and communities across Ontario, and upon which our health and well-being ultimately depend.

I urge you to remove Schedule 6 in its entirety from Bill 229.

Sincerely,