

Toni Ellis
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20 November 2020

TO: Mr. Ted Arnott MPP
Fergus, Ontario

Dear Ted,

Let me cut to the chase: I am adding my voice to the growing choir asking you to remove **Schedules 6 and 8** from Budget Bill 229.

Both contain seriously damaging rollbacks to environmental legislation, rollbacks that will leave us less resilient to climate change and sacrifice wildlife, forests and wetlands for short term economic gain from development and leave us the tax payers on the hook for the eventual cost of mitigation.

Schedule 6 takes away the powers of conservation authorities to protect, enhance and restore watersheds. In times of increased risk of flooding, this is backwards. We need these independent experts to do their jobs and bring science-based solutions forward in watersheds we all rely on for our well-being.

Schedule 8 exempts forestry operations from protecting and recovering endangered species to facilitate an ill-advised doubling of logging in the province. We need forests to provide habitat for all of Ontario's rich biodiversity including its threatened wildlife like boreal caribou and Blanding's turtle. We don't want to see our forests converted into empty, tree farms. We also need healthy forests, especially the Boreal Forest, to help us stave off the worst impacts of climate. Intact boreal forests are one of the best natural solutions to climate.

While the government is rightly concerned about the economy – especially now - let me remind you that a healthy environment is essential for a healthy economy.

Do you support removing Schedules 6 and 8 from Bill 229?

I await your response.

Sincerely,



cc. Premier Hon. Doug Ford
Minister of Finance Hon. Rod Phillips