



May 09, 2025

Premier Doug Ford
Minister Stephen Lecce, Ministry of Energy and Mines

Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Lecce,

Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association (CSVSWRA) does not support Omnibus Bill 5. CSVSWRA is a resident's association located in Scarborough Southwest. A volunteer community organization, we work on local issues including, commenting on planning policies, development applications and environmental issues. Our catchment area includes the environmentally sensitive Scarborough Bluffs and is part of the Atlantic flyway used by migratory birds twice a year, every year.

If passed, Omnibus Bill 5 would dispense with the Endangered Species Act, gut Environmental protections and threaten the rights of Indigenous people. Rather than "Protecting Ontario", this short-sighted Bill will protect companies that want to pillage our magnificent province for economic gain. The province's Auditor General found in 2021 that permits to destroy the habitat of endangered species had increased by 6,000% since 2008. Once a species is gone, it is gone. Don't worry though, you'll be able to take your children and grandchildren to museums to look at stuffed versions and photographs of the species that you've taken out.

We do not support the direction that your conservative government is heading towards. You claim this is to make Ontario's economy stronger. Where is the scientific evidence that destroying our environment will Protect Ontario against Trump's looming tariff threats?

We believe that, like the present Trump administration, the Ontario government is quashing opposition and destroying environmental protections to help developers and the mining and forestry sectors. Recently, your government limited the powers of Conservation Authorities to protect communities from flooding and erosion. The opposition to developing Ontario Place and the Greenbelt confirms public support to save the natural environment. Environmental degradation impacts our residents with increasing climatic damages as witnessed last week with the storms tearing up trees and causing hydro blackouts for various businesses and homes

resulting in increased insurance coverage or denial of coverage and increased municipal restoration operational costs.

When will you listen to your constituents, the people of Ontario? You work for us, and need to be accountable to us. Messrs. Ford and Lecce, your ideas are out-of-date, authoritarian and likely to exacerbate the climate crisis.

This legislation needs to be withdrawn.

Yours sincerely,

Tanya Baksh, Director
Alan Burt, Director
Tony Lombardi, Director
Janet May, Director
Marina Tadenc, Director
Peter Thachuk, Director
Donna McParland