



November 22, 2022

The Honourable Graydon Smith
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
300 Water Street, 6th Floor, South tower
Peterborough, ON
K9J 8M5

Dear Minister Smith:

Re: ERO Number 019-6141 - Legislative and regulatory proposals affecting conservation authorities to support the Housing Supply Action Plan 3.0

I wish to express my concern regarding the legislative and regulatory proposals affecting conservation authorities to support the Housing Supply Action Plan 3.1. Lakeshore Council has not yet had their first business meeting following the election. I acknowledge and support the province's stated objective of increasing housing supply however, I am deeply concerned that if Bill 23 is passed as currently proposed, a variety of significant unintended consequences will actually have the opposite effect and will delay or obstruct the construction of additional housing supply at the scale that is desired.

Lakeshore Administration and I support streamlining the development process, and generally is in support with limiting the conservation authority to comment on what they are mandated to comment on. Our concerns with this are that our local conservation authorities do provide services at the request of the Municipality that are above their mandate under the Conservation Act. If we were not able to rely on the Conservation Authority to provide these services, then we would have to look at hiring additional staff to provide for that expertise. This is even more concerning given the current market conditions and the significant lack of qualified professionals to undertake this work in Ontario.

With regards to the two conservation authorities that provide services within Lakeshore, they both charge a minimal fee to review and comment on development applications. With how minimal these fees are, Lakeshore doesn't see how freezing or reducing the fees that a conservation authority can collect has any significant cost savings on developers, or the future purchaser.



Lakeshore Administration and I do not support the conversion of conservation lands to housing. These areas have historically been obtained by the conservation authorities to protect and enhance important greenways, woodlands, and wetlands, while providing habitat linkages for a wide range of birds, plants and animal species. In addition, there are multiple studies and papers on the Government of Canada's website that speaks to how green spaces can reduce chronic diseases, stress, and contribute to healthy environments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments regarding these proposed legislative changes. I look forward to reviewing the outcome of the consultation.

Sincerely,

Tracey M. Bailey,
Mayor

Cc: Truper McBride, Chief Administrative Officer
Tammie Ryal, Corporate Leader Growth & Sustainability
Aaron Hair, Division Leader Community Planning