



Office of the City Clerk

May 21, 2025

Via email

All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, May 20, 2025 – Resolution Number 2025-197; Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

At the regular Council meeting on May 20, 2025, Council approved Resolution Number 2025-197 with respect to Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 as follows:

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight; and

Whereas the City of Kingston supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans; and

Whereas the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules; and

Whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties Association finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents”

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from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario's lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Kingston oppose all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority; and

That the Council of the City of Kingston urge the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools; and

That a copy of this motion be sent to The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P. Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Stephen Lecce, M.P.P. Minister of Energy and Mines, The Honourable Rob Flack, M.P.P. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, M.P.P. Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ted Hsu, M.P.P., Kingston & the Islands, John Jordan, M.P.P., Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Jaynes
City Clerk
/nb