



July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Energy and Mines

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Lecce:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of July 15, 2025  
Member Motion 7.1 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario  
by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025***

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its special meeting held on July 15, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and**

**Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and**


**Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and**

**Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and**

**Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and**

**Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;**

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local**

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	July 21, 2025 1:23 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Legislative Services  
Ishita Soneji  
905-726-4768  
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora  
100 John West Way, Box 1000  
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

**Delivered by email**  
premier@ontario.ca

ministerenergy@ontario.ca

**planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and**

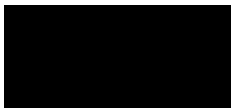
**2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:**

- **Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;**
- **Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;**
- **Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and**
- **Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and**

**3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Ishita Soneji  
Deputy Town Clerk  
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

IS/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities



## 7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

### 7.1 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*

#### **Main motion as amended**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gaertner

Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and

Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and

Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and

Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and

Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:

- Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;
  - Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;
  - Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and
  - Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

**Carried (4 to 0)**