


October 28, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

Dear Premier Ford,

 Corporate Services Department <b>Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	October 29, 2025 8:52 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

SENT VIA EMAIL

**Re: East Gwillimbury's Opposition to the *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*.**

For your information and records, at its meeting of Municipal Council held on October 21, 2025, the Council of the Town of East Gwillimbury enacted as follows:

*WHEREAS on April 17, 2025, the Government of Ontario brought forth Bill 5: "Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy", a broad omnibus legislation that introduces sweeping changes to multiple environmental and planning statutes, including the Environmental Assessment Act, Endangered Species Act, Ontario Heritage Act, and others; and*

*WHEREAS this legislation was passed through the legislature in 49 days, thus limiting opportunities to provide feedback; and*

*WHEREAS Bill 5 received Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and*

*WHEREAS the "Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy" Act, 2025 enables the creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which allow the provincial cabinet to exempt projects from compliance with municipal bylaws, environmental protections, and Indigenous consultation obligations; and*

*WHEREAS lands under protection through various provisions, such as the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt Protected Countryside, constitute 83% of the total EG area, which makes EG relevant in environmental stewardship for the Region and the Province; and*

*WHEREAS the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan are foundational to protecting the ecological and hydrological integrity of the region, and the provisions in the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 directly conflict with the objectives of these plans; and*

**Town of East Gwillimbury**

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[www.eastgwillimbury.ca](http://www.eastgwillimbury.ca)

*WHEREAS in alignment with the 2022 – 2024 Strategic Plan, EG Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2023 and approved the EG's Thinking Green Environmental Strategy in 2024, highlighting EG's commitments and efforts to preserve and restore the environment as EG grows; and*

*WHEREAS the Town of East Gwillimbury achieved 92% of its 2024 housing target, regardless of current environmental provisions, demonstrating that promoting sustainable growth is not only responsible but necessary;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, but expresses serious concerns with the Act as it interferes with local planning, limits public consultation, is inconsistent with the principles of free, prior and informed consent in consultation processes with Indigenous communities, and weakens protections to heritage and species, and formally opposes the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 in its current form; and*

*THAT Council endorses the position of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in requesting that municipalities be included in the development of any regulatory frameworks related to Special Economic Zones; and*

*THAT Council directs staff to submit this resolution to:*

- *The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario*
- *The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- *The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks*
- *The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs, President of the Treasury Board, and MPP for York-Simcoe*
- *The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)*
- *All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration*
- *The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)*
- *Donna Big Canoe, Chief of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation*
- *Abram Benedict, Ontario Regional Chief (ORC) for the Chiefs of Ontario;*  
*and*

*THAT Council encourages residents to contact their MPPs to express concerns about the impacts of the Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, on local governance, environmental protection, and Indigenous rights..*

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,



Amanda McNeil, Hon. B.A., M.M.St.  
Legislative Coordinator

CC:

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs, President of the  
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