



Georgian Bluffs

June 12, 2025

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, MPP
Minister of Energy and Mines
10th Floor, 77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1
stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

Re: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Bill 5 and Bill 17

Dear Minister Lecce,

Please be advised that at its June 4th, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting, the Township of Georgian Bluffs passed the following resolution which was subsequently adopted by Council at their meeting on June 11th, 2025:

COW2025-029

Moved By: Mayor Sue Carleton

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

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 Township of Georgian Bluffs 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;



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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the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human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 finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents” 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;

And whereas Amnesty International Canada urges the Government of Ontario to:

1. Immediately halt or withdraw Bill 5;
2. Recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act; and
3. Engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation;

And whereas Bill 17 proposes amendments that would prohibit municipalities from enacting building requirements beyond the Ontario Building Code, thereby restricting local green building initiatives currently underway across the province;

And whereas it aims to override municipal policies designed to promote sustainable building practices;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council for the Township of Georgian Bluffs:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 and Bill 17 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;
2. Urges 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;



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3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honorable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Honorable Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MPP Paul Vickers, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

Approved

Sincerely,

Jodi Ward

Council and Committee Coordinator

jw@georgianbluffs.ca | 519-376-2729 ext. 601

CC: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hon. Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Paul Vickers, MPP — Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities