

**The following form letter has been submitted by 160 number of individuals. Original submissions are available for inspection through Legislative Services, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

Clerks Oshawa,

As a resident in Durham region, and a supporter of responsible growth and democratic local government, I am writing to urge you to speak out against Bill 5: The Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025.

This legislation, if passed, would deal a serious blow to local decision-making, environmental protection, and the ability of municipalities like ours to manage growth in a sustainable and fiscally responsible way.

Why Bill 5 Should Concern Every Municipal Leader:

- It overrides local planning authority:

The creation of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) allows the Province to bypass municipal planning rules, official plans, and environmental policies — without local council input or public consultation.

- It undermines environmental protections:

The repeal of Ontario's Endangered Species Act weakens safeguards for sensitive lands, wetlands, and headwaters that many municipalities — including ours — have worked hard to protect.

- It exposes municipalities to financial risk:

Fast-tracked sprawl without proper planning threatens infrastructure capacity,

increases flood risk, and shifts long-term costs to municipal taxpayers. These are costs we cannot afford to inherit.

- It weakens transparency and public trust:

Decisions affecting our community could be made behind closed doors in Toronto, bypassing the local democratic processes that ensure development reflects community needs and values.

I'm Asking You to Take Action!

As elected representatives of Durham Region, I urge you to:

- Pass a Motion to Publicly oppose Bill 5 and its threat to local governance -

Draft Motion - Motion: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

- Work with fellow councillors and mayors across Ontario to call on the province to withdraw the Bill

- Advocate for a planning process that respects municipal authority, public input, and environmental sustainability

We need our local leaders to defend the principles of accountability, local control, and good planning.

Bill 5 puts our future at risk. Please speak out now — before decisions are taken out of your hands entirely.