



- committed to achieving and supporting a long-term healthy environment in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships through education, action and collaboration.

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November 27, 2020

Mr. Mike Harris, MPP Kitchener-Conestoga  
Unit 3, 63 Arthur Street South  
Elmira, ON, N3B 2M6

Dear Mr. Harris,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of the Nith Valley EcoBoosters. We hope that you and your loved ones are well. Thank you for all your efforts over the past months to get us through this terrible COVID-19 crisis.

I'm writing to you today to request that you oppose and urge the removal of Schedule 6 in Bill 229, the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act which would undermine efforts to conserve biodiversity and build resilience to climate change impacts. I also urge you to support proposals to protect more farmland, natural areas and freshwater sources.

There has never been a greater need for protecting farmland and natural areas, in particular forests and wetlands. The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of natural areas and farmland to our physical and mental wellbeing. These places are also critical to conserving biodiversity and enhancing community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Forests and wetlands are especially important for the health of our water sources and for flood prevention. Our reliance on ground water sources in Waterloo Region and our vulnerability to flooding in some areas makes it vital that everything possible is done to look after forests and wetlands.

We need to ensure that our environment is protected, especially from those who are doing their utmost to fast-track irresponsible projects while riding roughshod over environmental protections and public consultation. The short-sighted actions of a few, to make money, can result in many paying for the resulting environmental damage in the future.

As residents of your constituency, we are calling on you to speak out against the proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act. We also urge you to embrace opportunities to protect our environment as part of a green and just recovery from the pandemic. We look forward to receiving your response to our request.

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy Wilson  
Communications Officer  
Nith Valley EcoBoosters

cc. Premier Doug Ford, Mr. Steven Del Duca, Ms Andrea Horwath, Mr. Mike Schreiner