January 18, 2019

The Honourable Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building

Queens Park

Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Minister Todd Smith. MPP toddsmithco@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
18th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1S5

**RE: BILL 66, *Restoring Ontario’s Competitiveness Act***

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Smith,

The purpose of this correspondence is to express my deep concerns with respect to the proposed legislation, particularly in regard to the Schedule 10 amendments to the *Planning Act*.

My first concern is that the amendments proposed by Schedule 10 would ease development at the expense of the Province’s natural heritage and the health and rights of its citizens.

The established policies of the Province have been formed by political parties working together for decades, independent of party lines, for the collective good of the Province and its citizens.

Provincial policies are established in recognition of the fact that resources are shared and ought to be protected to the benefit of all of the people of Ontario. The importance of broad-based policies is found in the fact that resources cross municipal boundaries and that the individual actions of municipalities can have an effect beyond their own boundary.

In its current form, Bill 66 affords municipalities the ability to abandon the collective good and dismiss the critical protections for previous natural resources that are provided by current legislation, including:

* the *Planning Act,*
* the Clean Water Act,
* the *Greenbelt Act, and*
* the *Great Lakes Protection Act.*

As you are fully aware, the success of agriculture in Niagara-on-the-Lake depends on the protection provided by this legislation. Knowing that Greenbelt lands can only be used for agriculture and agriculturally-related uses affords our community the opportunity to be ‘Open for Business’. Conversely, Bill 66 threatens this security and jeopardizes the integrity of the agricultural system.

In addition, the proposed legislation would allow municipalities to bypass the rights of public involvement established by the *Planning Act.,* Again, all political parties have worked together to protect the democratic rights of citizens to be involved in a fair, consistent and transparent public engagement process when it comes to decisions in our communities. Instead, Bill 66 essentially establishes a backdoor invitation for developers to secure development rights for properties located in protected places like the Greenbelt.

In closing, I oppose Bill 66 in its present form and stand firm in my commitment to the protection of the Greenbelt and the safety and protection of our residents.

Sincerely,



Lord Mayor Betty Disero

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