

January 18, 2019

Hon. Todd Smith
Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Communications Branch
College Park
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S5

Dear Minister Smith:

Re: Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018*

On behalf of the City of Vaughan, I am pleased to submit the City's comments on the provincial government's draft Bill 66, *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018*, identified as ERO number 013-4293. The City recognizes the Act is at first reading and we appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments.

The City supports promoting responsible economic development through the streamlining of the development review process to find efficiencies. The City is strongly committed to sustainability and balanced decision making to create vibrant communities, a strong economy and a healthy environment.

On January 17, 2019, the City held a Special Committee of the Whole Working Session to discuss this legislation. We heard directly from thoughtful and engaged citizens who shared their ideas on how this bill could potentially impact Vaughan's future. Enclosed are the comments of individuals who made deputations. The entire meeting can be viewed online at vaughan.ca. Council has actively encouraged citizens to make submissions individually to the Ontario government reflecting their opinions on this matter.

During this well-attended community meeting of more than 100 concerned citizens, Council discussed the City's response to the Province's request for input, which includes policy analysis that impacts the land-use planning process, economic development, intergovernmental relations and environmental sustainability, among other city-building issues. Please find enclosed the staff report which provides further information.

Council unanimously approved a motion, which is attached to this letter, that made clear that the City does not support Bill 66 in its present form. Further engagement is needed on the draft legislation including the need for more time to allow the City to respond. Council and our community believes there is a great need to continue to protect the Oak Ridges Moraine and the lands in the Greenbelt, that public consultation be maintained under the proposed legislation, and to ensure any legislation adheres to the *Clean Water Act* and Vaughan's Official Plan.

Council remains committed to ensuring we safeguard the health and well-being of our local environment for current and future generations. Vaughan is a green city with a record of sustainability and stewardship. The environment is at the heart of our city-building efforts.

The City of Vaughan will continue its efforts to work with all governments and the business community to strengthen the local economy in a responsible way for our rapidly growing, world-class city.

Sincerely,



Hon. Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C.
Mayor of Vaughan

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, MPP, Premier
Hon. Steve Clark, MPP, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Stephen Lecce, MPP, King-Vaughan
Gila Martow, MPP, Thornhill
Hon. Michael Tibollo, MPP, Vaughan-Woodbridge

York Region Chair Wayne Emmerson
Vaughan City Council

Attachments:

City of Vaughan staff report: Bill 66 – *Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018* – Legislative Review and Council motion

City of Vaughan Special Committee of the Whole Working Session public deputations