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Town of Aurora

## Member Motion

Councillor Weese

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**Re:** **Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act*, 2025**

**To:** Members of Council

**From:** Councillor Ron Weese

**Date:** July 15, 2025

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Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and

Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and

Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and

Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council officially opposes Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends;
  - Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;

- Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;
  - Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;
  - Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;
  - Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.