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Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Councillor Weese

Re: **Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025***

To: Members of Council

From: Councillor Ron Weese

Date: July 15, 2025

Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and

Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and

Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and

Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and

Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council officially opposes Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines.